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BOWLING TO BRUCE

Council of Nabes: Yards not so bad

By Ariella Cohen and Christie Rizk
The Brooklyn Papers

A two-month, City Council-financed study found that the environmental impact study of Atlantic Yards is flawed — but not flawed enough to merit a halt in the project.

The Council of Brooklyn Neighborhoods' long-awaited \$230,000 study found that the DEIS contains "errors [that] incorrectly describe the size and location of the proposed project," George Jones, executive director of the Environmental Simulation Center, wrote in the study, which was delivered to the Empire State Development Corporation just as the state's public-comment period for Atlantic Yards ended on Friday.

In the end, the CBN, a coalition of 28 local civic groups, merely called for a more "accurate" study of the impacts of the 22-acre project, but did not find enough substantive flaws to call for the DEIS to be scrapped.

Jones did echo the concern of many opponents by questioning the legitimacy of a DEIS claim that the proposed 18,000-seat arena and 14,410-resident development would have no impact on police, fire, and emergency services in 2010 and 2016.

"The DEIS does not include any evidence to substantiate these claims, except for a letter from the New York City police commissioner," the 300-page study said, revealing that the population within a 3/4-mile radius of the project is already 22 per-

cent higher than the figure used in the DEIS.

Some of the errors Jones spotted in the DEIS appeared somewhat comical, such as cloudy skies in some "before" photos of the project site that were suddenly imbued with sunshine in the "after" simulations.

Jones also told the ESDC that flora within Ratner's seven-acre public space would die as a result of not enough sunlight.

"You may wish [Forest City Ratner] support assertions regarding plant selection and survival," Jones wrote.

Meanwhile, a different coalition of affordable housing advocates, civic leaders and city planners released its demands that the project shrink by 33 percent to 50 percent, yet include more affordable housing.

The new coalition, called Brooklyn Speaks, supports working with Ratner to improve the project on the belief that opponents are being marginalized, even though they are right about the project's adverse affect on neighboring Prospect Heights and Fort Greene.

"If we continue to say we don't want to see this project at all, we could be left with no opportunity to mitigate its environmental impacts," said Brooklyn Speaks member Michelle de la Uz, executive director of the Fifth Avenue Committee.

In addition to cuts in the project's overall size, Brooklyn Speaks also advised the city to keep Pacific Street and Fifth Avenue open, in-

See **COALITION** on page 2

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN



PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD IS NOW CLOSED
SEE PAGE 2



The Frank Gehry-designed "Miss Brooklyn," the centerpiece of Bruce Ratner's proposed Atlantic Yards project.

City follows Ratner lead

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Papers

Just weeks after Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner floated a plan to trim the size of his 8.65-million-square-foot mega-project by 6- to 8 percent, the City Planning Commission rubberstamped that notion on Wednesday.

The commission's recommended 8-percent trim would return the project to its originally proposed size — a far cry from the 30- to 50-percent reduction sought by critics, who accused the commission of doing Ratner's bidding.

"A lot of this was precooked," a real estate executive who works with Forest City Ratner told the New York Times after a commission hearing on Monday.

In a Sept. 27 letter to the Empire State Development Corporation, the state agency overseeing Ratner's project, the planning commission called Atlantic Yards "a vibrant new mixed-use community."

As it did with its recommendation for the modest size reduction in the overall project, the commission endorsed Forest City Ratner's intention to keep the project's spiritual centerpiece, the "Miss Brooklyn" tower at the intersection of Flatbush and Atlantic avenues, at 620 feet.

That was somewhat surprising, given that even project supporters like Borough President Markowitz have called for that building to be trimmed so it would not detract from the 512-foot Williamsburgh Savings Bank tower nearby.

Earlier this month, the Times reported that Atlantic Yards architect Frank Gehry "has objected to any changes in his design for Miss Brooklyn."

Regina Myer, director of the Department of City Planning's Brooklyn office, sided squarely with Ratner and Gehry as she briefed the 12 planning commissioners on Monday (a 13th commissioner, Dolly Williams, recused herself because she is a part-owner of Ratner's New Jersey Nets).

"The unshaking [design of Miss Brooklyn] is one of the great elements of this project," said Myer, saying that reductions in three adjacent buildings would allow Miss Brooklyn to shine even brighter.

City planners have been working closely behind the scenes with Ratner, so it's no surprise that the agency and the developer are on the same page (indeed, late Wednesday, Forest City Ratner put out a statement saying it had accepted the Planning Commission recommendations).

Critics say the Commission and the developer have merely made minor

See **CITY** on page 2

Coffee war!

A culture klatsch spreads through Brooklyn 'hoods

TALK ABOUT A BREW-HA-HA. Coffee-and-scone lovers in Park Slope and Cobble Hill — whose caffeine cultures are as different as surfer dudes and stockbrokers — were rocked this month to wake up and smell this coffee: each neighborhood's best-loved cafe had opened in its rival's turf.

It started when the Tea Lounge, which has two locations in Park Slope, opened on Court Street in tony Cobble Hill. Within days, Sweet Melissa, an upscale Court Street bakery just a few doors down from the new Tea Lounge, had opened on Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, bisecting the Tea Lounge's territory.

The Coffee War was on. OK, I'm exaggerating. No one is shooting "Pastilles at dawn!" or loading rifles with spent espresso grinds. But the significance of the cross-Brooklyn incursions cannot be underestimated. Park Slope loves its Tea Lounges, with their threadbare, Salvation Army couches; free WiFi; comfortable lighting, late hours and respect for classic rock. In a neighborhood that likes to call itself "a college town with-

THE BROOKLYN ANGLE By Gersh Kuntzman
EMBEDDED

out the college." Greg Wolf's lounges have become everyone's living room.

(Full disclosure: I wrote my latest book, "Chrismukkah: The Official Guide to the World's Most-Beloved Holiday," at the Tea Lounge. Fuller disclosure: I have now mentioned my new book, "Chrismukkah: The Official Guide to the World's Most-Beloved Holiday," in three consecutive issues.)

Of course, Cobble Hill loves its Sweet Melissa, with its Paris-worthy croissants, fancy quiches, amazing cakes and pies, and "afternoon tea" with all the trimmings. To extend the "col-

See **COFFEE** page 16



A young tyke enjoys a cupcake at the new Sweet Melissa Patisserie in Park Slope (above) while a different type of cafe culture continues at the Tea Lounge a few blocks away (below left).

COFFEE WAR 2006 TROOP MOVEMENTS



Let's get it on!

Campaign begins for Ridge seat

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

They've sniped at each other all summer, but now Rep. Vito Fossella (R-Bay Ridge) and Democrat Steve Harrison are on a collision course for the first of four debates next week.

It's a chance for Harrison to gain visibility in a race against a popular nine-year incumbent whose position may be weakened by strong links to a president whose popularity has been plunging.

Fossella has also been rocked by reports that he misused campaign funds for personal pleasure trips and misspent taxpayer money on campaign mailings. This week, in fact, he was ordered by Congress to repay the government an estimated \$60,000.

But despite his blemishes — not to mention Congress's 25-percent approval rating and the 13th Congressional District's majority Democratic electorate — Fossella still remains the man to beat.

Fossella's path to reelection has been facilitated by inaction on the part of the national Democrats — even though one called him "Bush's fair-haired boy in New York."

But now, six weeks before Election Day, Harrison's fellow donkeys have started pitching in. On Tuesday, Sen. Charles Schumer hosted a fundraiser in Bay Ridge for Harrison, at which Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-Sheepshead Bay) was the guest speaker.

The event raised at least \$15,000, Harrison aides said, but it may be too little to late. Fossella, with his \$458,000 cash on hand at the start of summer, is practically a Rockefeller compared to Harrison, who has raised only \$70,000, and has just \$8,000 on hand.

See **RIDGE RACE** on page 4



Bush hails Dem

President Bush came to New York on Monday and gave an award to Democrat Katie Husted. The Park Sloper was being honored for her volunteer work. Meanwhile, a Bay Ridge Democratic congressional hopeful is trying to link the floundering president to his "fair-haired boy," Rep. Vito Fossella (see story at left).

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DUMBO... come see what they see

Will anti-Yards fight go on?

The Brooklyn Papers

Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards appears headed for approval later this fall, but opponents say they'll just take their fight to the court-

room. Here are two legal strategies:

• Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn plans to sue on the grounds that the Empire State Development Corporation is

illegally condemning private property to advance a favored developer's project. Ironically, DDDDB spokesman Daniel Goldstein's condo is in one of the buildings to be condemned.

"People are losing their homes and their rights and the Empire State Development Corporation has not put forth an adequate relocation plan," said Jennifer Levin, an attorney for 10 rent-stabilized ten-

ants who would be displaced by the project.

• The group is also considering a suit if the project's impacts are not fully disclosed in the final environmental impact statement. — Ariella Cohen

CITY...

Continued from page 1

changes in the \$4.2-billion arena, residential, office space and hotel project in a way that allows them to appear attentive to community concerns.

A statement issued Wednesday by Forest City Ratner Vice President Jim Stuckey did little to counter that impression.

"The City's recommendation would allow us to respect the local community's wishes for less density and shorter buildings near residential communities, while at the same time ensuring that we are able to build all of the 2,250 units of affordable housing," Stuckey said.

During Monday's hearing, several commissioners asked whether those taxpayer-subsidized units were sacrosanct, even if the Planning Commission's reductions result in 382 fewer residential units. But Ratner this week reiterated his commitment to keeping that number fixed at 2,250.

The financing deal between the city and Forest City Ratner for those "affordable" units is still being negotiated, a spokeswoman for the city Economic Development Corporation told the Commission on Monday.

But one Planning commissioner, Kenneth Knuckles, questioned whether the below-market-rate rentals would provide a long-term benefit given that Ratner can convert them to market-rate units after the 30-year city subsidy runs out — following existing rent-stabilization laws, of course.

Knuckles seemed surprised that the developer is not being required to maintain the units' affordability "in perpetuity," he said.

The Empire State Development Corporation can ignore the Commission's recommendation with a two-thirds vote.

ATLANTIC YARDS COUNTDOWN



PUBLIC-COMMENT PERIOD IS NOW CLOSED

The Empire State Development Corporation invited Brooklyn to comment on the agency's draft environmental impact statement for the Atlantic Yards project by the end of the public-comment period on Sept. 29. We asked our readers to send copies of their testimony to newsroom@brooklynpapers.com. Here is this week's response.

What a strange time to live in. A humming, for-profit development comprised of mostly condos for the rich can be framed as housing for the poor, jobs and hoops. It sounds like Bush administration-style doublepeak.

It is awful that the public has not been allowed to discuss the environmental impact of 16-30 to 60-story buildings imposed onto our little slice of historic Brooklyn without there being charges of racism. Ratner and his cabal of state cronies seem to have taken a trick from Lee Atwater's "divide and conquer" playbook.

We are raising our children in what is sure to become known as Asthma Alley, as vehicular traffic sits gridlocked in 68 of the surrounding 93 intersections. There has been no mention of schools, parking, adding additional trains, or sewage and electrical infrastructure improvements for what will be the densest census tract in America.

It is not too difficult to see 20 years into the future when all of downtown Brooklyn could very well mimic Midtown Manhattan. Our beautiful polyglot neighborhood where people live, work, educate and shop locally, where we know our neighbors and we are proud of our differences, will all have been changed.

The idea that a private developer can come in and dump practically an entire city into our town, make his billion dollars, and leave us to live in the mess seems more like Communist China than the United States.

G. Mayron-King and S. King, Boerum Hill



Architect Douglas Hamilton submitted this rendering of his "Pacific Plan" this week.

COALITION...

Continued from page 1

stead of de-mapping the streets around the proposed arena.

"The Municipal Arts Society sees a way this project could work, if significant changes are made," said Jasper Goldman, a spokesman for the prominent, Manhattan-based planning organization.

The board of the ESDC is expected to approve the project soon. After that, the project will seek its final approval from the Public Authorities Control Board, the same three-man panel that killed the proposed Jets stadium on the West Side of Manhattan last year.

Meanwhile, one Brooklyn architect has come up with a way of bridging the gap between Forest City Ratner and its opponents.

Douglas Hamilton, an architect with 20 years of experience in urban design, took Frank Gehry's vision for the mega-project and created a "middle ground plan."

Hamilton calls it the "Pacific Plan."

"I don't want to see [the project] scrapped," Hamilton said. "I think it has a lot of positive elements."

But, he added, a bunch of "poor design decisions" have created a finished product that "turns its back on making connections with the neighborhood."

"It's as if you're drawing a knife down the middle of Dean Street," he said.

And unlike Ratner's "scorched earth" proposal, Hamilton's would not require eminent domain.

Hamilton sent his "Pacific Plan" (including the rendering, below left) to the Empire State Development Corporation as part of his testimony on the Atlantic Yards project.

Who is this CBN?

The following is a list of all the member groups in the Council of Brooklyn Neighborhoods:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1238 St. Marks Avenue Association | Fans for Fair Play |
| 1700 Dean Street Block Association | Fifth Avenue Committee |
| Atlantic Avenue Betterment Association | Fifth Avenue Merchants Association (Park Slope) |
| Bed-Stuy Family Health Center | Fort Greene Association |
| Black Veterans for Social Justice | Friends and Residents of Greater Gowanus |
| Boerum Hill Association | Gowanus Canal CDC |
| Brooklyn Bears Community Garden | New York Preservation Alliance |
| Brooklyn Vision Foundation | North Flatbush Business Improvement District |
| Cambridge Place Action Coalition | Pacific 400 Block Association |
| Carlton-Villages Block Association | Park Slope Civic Council, Inc. |
| Central State Block Association | Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council |
| Clemonville-Greene Avenue Block Association | Park Slope Neighbors |
| Croton Hill Apartment Owners Corp. | Park Slope Community Council |
| Crown Heights Association | Sierra Club (Midland Chapter) |
| Dean Street Block Association | South Portland Block Association |
| Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn | Warren Street/St. Marks Community Garden |
| East Pacific Street Block Association | |

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**By Lilo H. Stainton
and Christie Rizk**
for the Brooklyn Papers

A rash of gym locker thefts continued this week with a heist at the Dodge YMCA on Sept. 20.

A 47-year-old woman placed her bag in a locker at the gym, on the corner of Court Street and Atlantic Avenue.

When she returned from her morning workout and shower,

she discovered her bag and its contents missing.

A custodian present in the locker room at the time didn't see anyone suspicious, and the gym's security personnel are reviewing the surveillance tapes. The woman told cops that she had failed to lock the locker.

She lost \$200, a Metrocard, some clothes and credit cards.

This latest heist follows three locker-room burglaries in the 84th Precinct last week, as reported in last week's blunder.

Cut and run

A woman and her husband taking an evening stroll on Montague Street were robbed — and then assaulted when they resisted.

The 56-year-old woman and her 66-year-old husband were standing on the corner of Henry and Montague streets at 11 pm on Sept. 22 when a man jumped out of a nearby car and demanded the woman's purse. Brandishing a knife, the thug threatened, "Give me the money or I'll cut you."

Grabbing the woman's purse, the hoodlum made good on his threat and cut the woman's hand as she tried to hold on.

The thief ran back to his car and drove away with \$1,000 in cash and several credit cards.

Man of letters

An armed robber — perhaps practicing for an upcoming bank robbery — held up a busy Downtown drug store on Sept. 22.

The robber approached the cashier at around 7 pm and handed her a note typical of bank jobs: "This is a robbery. I am armed. Please do what I say."

After flashing a black handgun, he reached into the register and removed \$1,800, and fled the store, which is at busy Court and Montague streets. Police have no suspects.

Beat down

A 13-year-old boy was robbed of his cellphone and threatened with a beating in the afternoon of Sept. 23.

The young teen was standing on the corner of Bond and Dean streets at 3:25 pm when the assailant approached and menaced him. "If you don't give me your cellphone, I'm gonna beat you up."

Not waiting for the frightened kid to comply, the brazen burglar reached into the victim's bag and took the \$300 Motorola Razzr phone.

Clean sweep

Police cleared a loaded gun, a knife and two violent, greedy thugs from the streets on Sept. 23.

The crimes began when a pair of armed robbers attacked a 36-year-old woman as she walked home along Nevins Street, near Butler Street, around 2 am. The thugs rushed behind her and put her in a choke hold, then dragged her behind a tree and thrust a knife to her throat. "Give me your money," they demanded.

One mugger grabbed her peckebag and rifled through it, removing \$37. They ditched the bag and ran off.

But apparently it wasn't enough. They robbers decided to come back for seconds.

Ten minutes later, they had returned and approached the victim again. But this time they had some company: cops from Park Slope's 78th Precinct. The sight of blue uniforms made the thieves turn and run, but police gave chase.

Officers saw one robber carrying a gun. Another thug dropped a gravity knife in a trash can as he ran. Cops collected both weapons and, after the victim identified her attackers, Officer Miguel Casonova placed the two men under arrest on robbery charges.

Masked thug

A pair of gun-toting thieves, their identities well concealed, beat a clerk during their Sept. 21 robbery of a Baltic Street bodega, police said.

The pair burst into the go-

POLICE BLOTTER

very, between Henry and Hicks streets, around 10:20 pm, each one with a handgun raised. One thief smashed his weapon into the back of the 22-year-old clerk's head, knocking him to the floor, and insisted, "Give me the money."

The second robber rifled through the cash register and cleaned it out, netting \$7,000 total. The pair then ran out the door and drove off in a dark-colored SUV, possibly a Ford Explorer, that had been parked on Henry Street, according to a witness who saw the thieves flee.

Police are looking for two

white Hispanic men, both between 20 and 30 years old. Both wore hooded sweatshirts and banded masking their faces.

iBust

At least two Fort Greene residents lost their iPods last week to thieves on their way home from the subway around midnight, police reports show.

The robbers escaped, but a search after the heists led police to arrest another man on unrelated gun possession charges.

On Sept. 22, two teenagers armed with a gun stole a digital-music device from a boy their own age as he walked home from the Lafayette Avenue train

station moments after midnight. The thieves surrounded their 19-year-old victim on Washington Avenue. One thug, who seemed to have a gun under his jacket, blocked the teen's path while the other thief demanded he turn over the iPod.

The thieves are described as black boys in their late teens; the gunman is 5-foot-11 and an unknown weight, the other robber is 5-foot-4 and 140 pounds.

The scenario was repeated with almost identical details the next night, cops said. A 22-year-old man was walking home from the same station with a 23-year-old friend when two strangers blocked their path.

One thug punched the victim, insisting, "Gimme the damn iPod..." The thieves snatched the digital device and bolted.

Witnesses described one robber as a black man, 5-foot-8 and 160 pounds, dressed in a black sweat jacket, black skullcap and white sneakers. The second thief was also black, 6-foot-1 and 180 pounds, wearing a gray sweatshirt, blue jeans and, once again, white sneakers.

A subsequent police search resulted in the arrest of a 19-year-old Fort Greene man for gun possession.

Eye on gangs

The police department's gang intelligence task force is examining two violent attacks on Sept. 20 by a pack of red-clad teens who targeted students walking home from school on Park Avenue. The boys could be bloods members, reports show.

The first assault began at 3:50 pm, when a posse of boys surrounded a 16-year-old on Park Avenue and North Portland Avenue and started to taunt and push him. The victim ran, but his tormentors pursued.

When they caught the victim, they grabbed a bottle from his hand and threw it at his head, striking his face and slicing the right side of his lip open. The thugs took off, and the victim was taken to Bellevue Hospital for treatment.

Pop and roll

A Fort Greene man lost a \$1,300 gold necklace when a pair of mugger rushed him on Sept. 18, police said.

The 27-year-old victim was walking home alone Wulfburg Avenue, near St. Edwards Street, at 12:40 am when the two strangers appeared behind him and asked, "What's popping?" The victim turned around, but didn't reply.

That's when the second stranger pulled a gun from his waistband and added his two cents: "Roll your sh-t," he told the victim. The thief didn't wait for the man to respond, but

See **BLOTTER** on page 13

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Car thieves on the prowl in Park Slope

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

Honda Civics continue to disappear from Park Slope streets at an alarming rate, police records show.

Thieves snatched five more vehicles between Sept. 17 and Sept. 20: the week before they stole eight and vandalized another in a failed attempt. Of the nine cars targeted, six were Hondas — some parked for just a few hours before they disappeared.

But despite the spike in stolen car reports in September, so-called GLAs, or grand larceny auto, are actually down more than 20 percent this year compared to numbers through the same period last year, officials said. A special task force is examining the pattern and patrols from the 78th Precinct are watching problem blocks.

Last week's stolen cars included:

• A 1993 Honda Civic parked on 10th Street, between Fifth and Seventh avenues, at 10:30 pm on Sept. 17.

• A 1994 white Honda Civic stolen from 12th Street, between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West. The 37-year-old owner parked the car at 6 pm on Sept. 17. Less than three hours later, it was gone.

• A 2005 Honda Civic disappeared from President Street, near Fourth Avenue, at 6:30 pm on Sept. 18. When the 27-year-old owner returned four days later, the gray sedan was missing.

• A 1990 Honda Civic parked on Garfield Place, at Eighth Avenue, went missing sometime after 11:30 am on Sept. 21. The next morning, the 65-year-old owner found no sign of her red sedan.

• And a 1996 Toyota SUV disappeared from Park Place, near Seventh Avenue, between 5 pm on Sept. 20 and 6 pm on Sept. 23.

For some reason, thieves had less luck with two other Hondas. And they had no need to take the final vehicle, not once they saw what was inside.

On Sept. 23, at 6 pm, a 46-year-old man discovered a burglar had stolen \$2,450 and a \$3,000 personal check, made out to the victim and already endorsed, from his vehicle, parked in the lot at an auto-parts supply store on Fourth Avenue, at Ninth Street.

The thief had busted through the front passenger-side window to grab the white Buana Republic shopping bag that had the cash and check inside, plus a Palm Pilot and an external keyboard for the hand-held communications device, valued at over \$500 together.

Bodega burg

Thieves raided the cash machine at a Fifth Avenue bodega closed for the night on Sept. 20, police said.

Sometime after 11 pm, the burglars broke through the side door of an abandoned building next door, went to the second floor and crossed from there over to the apartment above the deli, in a building near St. Johns

POLICE BLOTTER

Place. From there, they cut a hole in the floor and dropped into the store below.

Once inside, the burglars busted into the ATM. The thieves also snatched \$60 stashed next to the cash register and two packs of Newport cigarettes.

Electronics taken

Someone stole a collection of high-tech gadgets from a 14th Street apartment on Sept. 18, police said.

The 24-year-old tenant left his first-floor home, in a building near Fourth Avenue, at 7:30 am. When he returned at 9 pm, he found that the back window had been forced open with a crowbar and several valuables missing.

The burglar stole a Dell laptop, a Canon digital camera, an iPod and a portable DVD player.

Unlucky numbers

A 32-year-old Queens woman became the victim of a lottery fraud on Sept. 22 when she was tricked into withdrawing \$15,000 to help a scam artist who claimed to be too sick to collect on his winnings, police said.

The trickster approached the victim on Seventh Avenue and Garfield Place, at 2:30 pm, with a confusing story about an illness and a lucky Lotto ticket. The man told her, "I am sick ... I need money for a Lotto ticket," reports said.

Suddenly, a second stranger approached and interjected to offer his assistance. "Can I help you guys?" he began, then suggested, "Let's help the guy, he's really sick."

Apparently, the Good Samaritan claimed he had the cash and offered to withdraw it from the bank, but instead somehow convinced the victim to make two withdrawals.

The victim went to her bank and took out \$13,500 from one account. Then she withdrew \$1,500 from another account. As soon as the scam artists had the money in their mitts they were gone, leaving the unlucky victim empty-handed.

Hot pants heist

The designer jeans were fine. But are they worth the time?

That question may be nagging at a pair of teens police arrested on Sept. 22 for stealing nearly \$500 in Frankie B jeans from a Fifth Avenue boutique.

The stylish thieves — two girls, ages 17 and 18 — wandered into the store, near Bergen Street, around 5 pm. When they tried to remove three pairs of the fancy pants, valued at \$173 each, employees confronted the sticky-fingered fashionistas. A fight broke out, and the girls ran from the store with the jeans.

But boutique workers

chased the jean-thieves down on Fifth Avenue and snatched the denim back. But the teens didn't give up without a fight: one clerk, age 17, suffered a bite wound on her left arm, and her 28-year-old colleague was clawed in the head, police said.

Officers called to the scene quickly cuffed the teenage thieves on robbery charges.

Morning mug

A pair of thugs jumped a 52-year-old Staten Island man as he made his way along Fourth Avenue on Sept. 23, police said.

The thieves approached the victim at around 10 am between President and Carroll streets, and demanded that he turn over his money. When he said he had none, one mugger reached into his pocket and pulled out his wallet, and they ran off toward Seventh Avenue. The thieves escaped with \$80 and a \$35 money order.

Police are searching for a white Hispanic man who

dressed that day in a yellow hat, beige slacks and a gray coat. The second thief was also a white Hispanic man, 5-foot-6 hand 150 pounds, who donned a gray cap, blue jeans and a gray coat for the occasion.

Let them steal cake

Police are tracking a load of stolen frozen food — including party cakes and soda — and restaurant equipment that disappeared from a Ninth Street eatery last week.

The restaurant, located west of Second Avenue near the Gowanus Canal, was closed to the public on Sept. 16, workers said. When workers returned the next day around 7:30 pm, they discovered a burglar had broken through the gate, damaging the lock, and raided the office, the kitchen and even the freezer.

The stolen goods included a Dell laptop, a paper shredder, a battery charged-forklift, a collection of hand trucks, trolleys and flat-bed wagons, 20 cases of frozen food — valued at \$900 — a box of frozen cakes, 10 cases of soda and a giant metal bowl, worth \$400.

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Big jewelry heist at Zales

By Lilo H. Stainton

The Brooklyn Papers

68th Precinct

Burglars smashed their way into the Zales jewelry store on Sunday and made off with a jaw-dropping \$2 million worth of bangles, police said.

The burglars broke into the 86th Street store, at Fourth Avenue, by breaking through the roof. Once inside, they helped themselves to necklaces, bracelets and rings from the store's display cases and safe. The burglary was not discovered until an employee arrived on Monday morning, Sept. 25.

Zales is offering a \$10,000 reward for information, plus five percent of the retail value of any merchandise recovered. The company's hotline is (800) 999-7040.

Witnessed

The open-door policy proved costly.

A 41-year-old man learned that lesson when a thief wandered into his 67th Street apartment, near 10th Avenue, around 4 a.m. on Sept. 24, police said. When the victim saw the stranger fleeing, he realized two cellphones, a MasterCard and \$320 were missing. The doors to his home had not been locked.

The man described the thief as a white woman, 5-foot-6,

62/68 BLOTTER

62nd Precinct

with long, straight, brown hair and dressed in blue jeans.

Laptop stolen

A thief snatched a portable computer from a car that had been parked on Poly Place for just two hours on Sept. 21, police said.

The 39-year-old owner said he left his 2003 Volkswagen Golf near the corner of Battery Avenue just before 11 a.m. When he returned at 1 p.m., the passenger-side window had been smashed and the computer was gone.

Not mine

Someone helped himself to a Staten Island shopping spree, without the permission of the Dyker Heights woman left holding the bill.

Police said the 42-year-old victim, who lives on 76th Street, near 14th Avenue, discovered a thief had run up \$184 in charges on her Kohl's card sometime between the end of August and last week. The victim didn't know how the thief got her account number to charge the merchandise, which included a \$100 gift certificate, a mattress pad, a pair of kids shoes, a \$350 hair accessory, several pairs of men's boxers, girls' sleepwear and a host of toddler clothing.

Thief thwarted

Talk about coming her pay. A brazen shop clerk stopped a thief armed with a handgun from robbing an Avenue O bodega on Sept. 20, police said.

The 50-year-old employee said the robber rushed inside the store, near West Seventh Street, moments before 3 p.m. He pointed the black weapon at her and demanded several times, "Give me your money."

Instead, the gutsy woman grabbed for the thief's hands and pushed the gun away from her face. That sent the smirking thief scampering from the store empty-handed. A witness said the robber jumped into a red four-door vehicle, driven by an accomplice, and sped away.

Tunes taken

A teenager lost his iPod to a pair of thieves who attacked him after school on Sept. 21, police said.

The thugs surrounded the 15-year-old victim at the corner of 17th Avenue and 85th Street, around 4:30 p.m. and demanded he turn over the popular digital audio player. When the victim told them no, the robbers turned violent, punching him several times in the face and body.

The victim couldn't describe his attackers in detail, since both were wearing black bandanas with white paisley

prints covering their faces.

Booze burglar

Someone's celebrating — but not the members of a Stillwell Avenue social club.

A burglar stole \$1,000 and numerous bottles of wine and vodka from a private watering hole, near Avenue T, early on Sept. 17. A club member discovered a window that was left open, allowing someone into the hallway leading to the club around 4:30 a.m.

Bad trip

A 54-year-old man arrived at his 71st Street home from vacation on Sept. 25 and found clothes strewn all over his bedroom and credit cards and various identification missing.

He hadn't left the place a mess, though. In fact, he had left his home locked up tight when he left town on Sept. 11, but when he returned, the second-floor bedroom door was open and the apartment's doors were unlocked.

Motorcycle gone

A burglar roared away from a Bensonhurst garage with a stolen Kawasaki on Sept. 21, police said.

The bike's 51-year-old owner returned to his 78th Street home, near 16th Avenue, around 7 p.m. to discover the garage door open and his ride gone. The keys to the 1995 cycle were stored inside a helmet, which was sitting on the seat.

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Cruise bus snub drives them mad

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Papers

The city's new cruise ship terminal is starting to cause some rough waves in Red Hook.

In the midst of its first season in Brooklyn, Princess Cruises insulted its neighbors by hiring a New Jersey-based motor coach company to speed passengers directly away from the Brooklyn Cruise Terminal whenever their ships come in.

The selection of a New Jersey company caused a mini-quarrel in a neighborhood that had been promised by city officials that the cruise industry would bring tourists and spur economic development.

"They say they want to support local businesses, but they expressed no interest in working with us," said Christina Rubino, who operates a rival bus company, Trans Express, with her three sisters right across the street from the terminal.

"The terminal has been here for months and we have yet to see one Hawaiian shirt," she added.

Princess did not invite local companies to bid on the motor coach contract because of a prior offer from Academy Bus, a long-standing provider, according to a spokeswoman



(From left) Toni, Mary, Christina, and Delores Rabin — the four sisters who together run a Red Hook-based bus company that hasn't seen any business from the cruise ship industry.

for the company.

"Enterprising business people contact us when they see an opportunity," said Princess spokeswoman Julie Benson.

Originally, the city expected to create 600 jobs with the \$56-million terminal, but the number of new jobs turned out to be 300 part-time positions. Local development goals haven't yet met their original ambition either,

though city officials said it was still too early to analyze the port's economic impact.

Cruise ship passengers, especially the Brooklynites among them, have their own complaints about the lack of Brooklyn spirit on the cruises.

"The only info on Brooklyn they give you on the ship was how to get out of Brooklyn," said John Manbeck, who not

only loves cruising, but is also a former borough historian.

Since April, when the cruise ships started using the pier at the foot of Pioneer Street, their crews, not their customers, have provided the biggest economic boost.

"I eat here twice every day," said Danny Milham, a terminal worker eating breakfast at the Red Hook Grill, a diner on

Van Brunt Street. "The pizza is good. Fairway is good. I like that hot dog place up the street. So what if the passengers all split?"



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RIDGE RACE RIOT...

Continued from page 1

How little is that? Back in February, the Staten Island Democratic Party Chairman, Assemblyman John Lavelle, told The Brooklyn Papers that Harrison would need at least \$250,000 to be a viable candidate.

But he also assumed that the national party would assist Harrison, given how intently the Democrats want to regain the House. To do so, the party needs Harrison to win back the district's many Reagan Democrats.

DCCC officials refused to return repeated calls for comment explaining why the organization hasn't done more for Harrison.

But Weiner speculated that the DCCC is reluctant to take on Fossella, whom he called



Rep. Vito Fossella



Steve Harrison

"a formidable candidate" and "a hard-working guy."

That jibes with what other political insiders have said — namely, that to get money from the DCCC, a candidate needs to appear strong.

"He has to convince nation-

al Democrats that this seat is one that can be taken," said Stefan Friedman, a consultant who helped guide City Councilwoman Yvette Clarke (D-Crown Heights) to victory in the 11th Congressional District primary. "They see that he's

serious by looking at polls and money."

"To say Harrison has 'limited resources' would be generous," Friedman added. But supporters like Weiner argue that Harrison can win without the DCCC's involvement.

"At the end of the day, it takes a lot of money to neutralize a powerful message," said Weiner, "and I think Harrison has a powerful message."

Of course, a campaign is not all about money.

It's also about name recognition — another area in which Harrison has not excelled.

Despite eight months of Harrison's canvassing, many residents of the district don't know who is running against their Congressman.

The owner of Toys Toys on Third Avenue is a Democrat, but he's never heard of Harrison.

Neither has Linda, a mother of two, who was sitting outside a Bay Ridge bagel shop last week, although she, too, is a Democrat. But she had heard of Fossella, and she made a point of noting, "I vote out of party all the time."

That Harrison's name recognition is so slight in his own neighborhood does not bode well for his success in Staten Island, which contains most of the district.

"Fossella is still a very important name on the Island, and name matters," said Hank Sheinkopf, a political consultant.

"Harrison would have to have the money to buy name identification."

He doesn't have the cash, but recent political maneuvering indicates that Fossella does consider Harrison a threat.

Staten Island Republicans have asked the Federal Election Commission to investigate Harrison for improperly reporting campaign donations.

Unsurprisingly, Harrison's campaign is calling the Republicans' bluff. "It's more than just coincidence that within the same week that Congress found that Fossella... will have to repay the government \$60,000, they're sending in a complaint," said Brian Kaszuba, Harrison's campaign manager. "They're just trying to spin something."

Vito's friends

The Brooklyn Papers

Want to meet Vito Fossella's crude, rude and sexually supercharged online friends?

Want to know more about the issues that define his battle against Democratic challenger Steve Harrison?

If so, you have two choices: Turn to pages 5 and 14 of The Brooklyn Papers' Bay Ridge edition — or go to www.brooklynpapers.com, where our full coverage of this race is posted. And let the campaign begin!

CHECKIN' IN WITH...

Freedy Johnston



Did you hear the news? Freedy Johnston, a singer-songwriter's singer-songwriter, is now a Brooklynite. The native Kansan, a New Yorker since 1985, moved to Greenpoint last week — and he isn't looking back. (Then again, how can he? This is, after all, the same guy who once sang about how he "sold the dirt [his family farm] to feed the band.") Manhattan's loss is Brooklyn's gain. Johnston is the folk-rock star who put out two seminal albums in the 1990s — "Can You Fly," featuring "Tearing Down This Place," and "Responsible," in 1992; and the 1994 follow-up, "This Perfect World," best known for "Bad Reputation." Since then, he has remained just as brilliant, albeit a little less prolific. His latest, "Bus Stop," is self-effacing, mostly letting his lone guitar, haunting melodies and lyrics about outsiders, gamblers and other assorted ne'er-do-wells do the talking.

His songs aren't the bubble-gum set — in fact, Johnston is so filled with melancholy that he even found a tragic theme running through that old Hollies love song, "Bus Stop" — but he remains one of Brooklyn's great working artists. This week, he checked in with our editor, Gersh Kuntzman.

Q: First, explain the move to Brooklyn.
A: To be honest, what I really needed was more space. And now, we're in beautiful Greenpoint, on the Newtown Creek.

Q: Beautiful?
A: I guess I've always romanticized New York. When I was living in Kansas, this was the place I had to get to.

Q: I love going to your shows because they're exquisitely sad.
A: I write sad songs. That's my gig and I'm resigned myself to it. Everyone has one thing that they do, I guess.

Q: I hope not. My one thing is Borscht Belt jokes and my family is getting tired of them.
A: And mine is songs are about melancholic loners.

Q: You don't seem to love being on

stage. Sometimes I feel that your shows are your therapy.

A: I'm not completely uncomfortable on stage. It's a bit nerve-wracking. They're watching you every move and wondering if you're going to be funny or have spinach in your teeth. But I do it, so I won't lose touch with that feeling. If that happens, it'll become just a boring job. And I'm kind of a long-range kind of guy. I'm going to make lots of records and do lots of shows.

Q: You made fun of it, but, seriously, when is that new album coming out?
A: End of the year. It's been tough, but I'm very happy with it.

Q: You? Happy? The same man who found a tragic thread in "Bus Stop"?
A: I didn't intend it! I was trying to be as peppy and upbeat. But leave it to me, I'll find that heart of darkness in something. I just love the melody. That's why I play it.

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Can Chuck come out and protest?

The Brooklyn Papers

Dozens of pro-peace activists marched to Sen. Charles Schumer's Park Slope apartment building on Sunday night to blame New York's senior Senator for backing the Bush administration's invasion of Iraq.

Led by a five-and-drum corps and carrying fake coffins bearing the names of some of America's 2,700 war dead, the group marched from the Civil War memorial on Grand Army Plaza to Schumer's Prospect Park West apartment, which they are hoping to turn into a monument of its own.

After all, the same group, led by Brooklyn Parents for Peace, marched on Schumer's apartment in March 2003, to protest Schumer's support for the imminent invasion. "The war in Iraq is not simply a 'Bush' war — it is a Congressional war," said Carolyn Eisenberg, co-founder of the group, as she stood under the Senator's window.

"Along with other politicians — Democrat and Republicans — you did not speak out. And everything that we feared has now happened and worse: 2,700 Americans dead, 20,000 wounded, tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians killed, a country disintegrating before our eyes... And still the occupation continues. And still you support it."

Schumer's office refused to comment about the protest — and wouldn't even brief The Brooklyn Papers on the Senator's current opinion about the war he helped authorize on Oct. 11, 2002.

In that vote, Schumer joined 48 Republicans (and his colleague Hillary Clinton) to authorize the president to attack Iraq if Saddam Hussein refused to give up the weapons of mass destruction that it turned out he didn't have.

— Gersh Kuntzman



Dozens marched to the home of Sen. Charles Schumer to protest his support for the war in Iraq on Sunday, Sept. 24.

City wants to hear your bark

The Brooklyn Papers

Take off your muzzles, Brooklynites, and let the dog-fight begin.

The Health Department announced this week that it wants to rewrite the Health Code to allow the Parks Department to continue its off-leash hours.

These long-standing courtesy hours allow dog owners to let their pets run free in most city parks between 9 pm and 9 am.

But that policy came under fire this summer when a Queens community group sued the Parks Department on the grounds that the courtesy

hours violated the Health Code.

To render the community group's argument moot, the Board of Health is planning to re-write the code.

Before it can do so, it has to go through the formality of a public hearing, which is set for November 1. In the meantime, written comments can be emailed to resolutioncomments@health.nyc.gov or snail-mailed to Renu Bryant, Secretary to the Board of Health, 125 Worth Street CN-31, New York, NY 10013.

Let the barking begin.

— Dana Rubinstein

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Vito, Steve on the issues

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

Voters in Bay Ridge are finally going to get the chance to hear from Rep. Vito Fossella and his Democratic challenger Steve Harrison. They've agreed to debate four times in the coming weeks — twice in Bay Ridge and twice in Staten Island. Here's a preview:

THE WAR IN IRAQ

Fossella stands firmly behind the president's unpopular war in Iraq, and supports his reinterpretation of the Geneva conventions.

"I think our government needs to give our intelligence agencies every tool possible consistent with the law to obtain information to prevent another terrorist attack," Fossella told The Brooklyn Papers.

Harrison disagrees. "We should get out of Iraq,"

said Harrison, who calls for a phased withdrawal from the region. "We should continue the War on Terror, and not confuse it with war in Iraq."

ENERGY

Fossella argues that the government should cultivate new sources of oil, while also providing incentives for new technologies, echoing President Bush's stance. Fossella says much has already been accomplished.

"With America in dire need of a national energy policy, Congress took steps to alleviate gasoline and natural gas prices, create jobs and boost domestic production of resources and renewable energy to reduce our reliance on foreign oil," said Fossella.

At a recent speech on energy policy at the Staten Island Museum, Harrison tied the nation's addiction to oil to the morass in the Middle East, to global warming, and even to the collapse of the Shore Road seawall.

"Spring tides were topping the wall, something that never happened when it was built," said Harrison.

To address the oil addiction, Harrison calls for the creation of an "Alan Greenspan of energy" who will "set long-term energy goals, fund research into basic technologies, and create conditions that encourage and focus private research and investment."

SECURITY

Fossella championed an amendment that would allocate an additional \$20 million to the Urban Areas Security Initiative, about \$5 million of which would go to New York City. The amendment was passed by the House earlier this year, but may be on the conference committee's chopping block.

"Fundamentally I'm running on a record of accomplishment," said Fossella, who takes credit for helping "Keep America safe."

Fossella also worked with New York's congressional delegation to secure \$125 million for workers compensation claims linked to 9-11.

Harrison calls for the scanning of all ship cargo at ports-of-origin.

"Of these containers that come See **ISSUES** on page 14

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Sukkot
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Minyanim
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 Shabbat schedule

Lights on, was Chuck home?

The Brooklyn Papers

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— Gersh Kuntzman



Dozens marched to the home of Sen. Charles Schumer on Sunday, Sept. 24, to protest his support for the war in Iraq.

Fourth Avenue on the rise



'L' of a building

New renderings for a 12-story condo tower planned for the corner of Fourth Avenue and Seventh Street on the Gowanus end of Park Slope show what happens when a developer wants to build on a lot he doesn't fully own. When completed next year, the L-shaped tower, at 410 Fourth Ave., will cast a shadow over the four-story building in its lap, a historic property that the developer couldn't buy. "In some way, the shadows are OK," said architect Marvin Meltzer. "They cool things off." — Ariella Cohen

Mishmash

Here's a sneak peek at a new building set to rise at 255 First St., just off Fourth Avenue. Thanks to a quirk in the zoning, the structure is a bit of a hybrid, rising to 120 feet on the western side, because that part was included in the recent Fourth Avenue upzoning, while only 50 feet on the other side, which was just outside the upzoned area. "We had to get creative to play by the rules," explained architect Steven Kratchman. How the neighborhood will receive his creativity will be determined after the building is completed next year. — Cohen

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DDDB was honored to have Evelyn on our Advisory Board. Her life's work is an inspiration for all of us.

We and many, many others will greatly miss her. Our thoughts are with her devoted husband and comrade Everett, and all of her friends and family.

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A NIGHTMARE ON DEAN ST. Sealed in!

By Paul Koepp
for The Brooklyn Papers

A Prospect Heights building owner has taken the landlord-tenant dispute to a new level: he's started demolishing a Dean Street building that still has a family living in it.

The family under siege — Carmen Barreto, her daughter Migdalia and her granddaughter — hasn't had hot water for two months.

But worse, on Monday, they awoke in their 499 Dean St. apartment to the loud sound of shattering glass as workmen tore apart the other seven units — and bricked over all the windows except theirs.

"They were knocking the windows out," said Migdalia's sister, Carmen Ramos. "And this was once a nice building."

Landlord Mark Scheiner was hit with violations from the Department of Buildings this week for doing the work without a permit.

Before his latest effort, Scheiner has tried a carrot and a stick approach to get the Barretos out.



Not only has Scheiner threatened to raise the rent from \$535 to \$1,600 — even though it's a rent-stabilized apartment — he's also offered a \$30,000 buyout, according to Migdalia Barreto.

"It's not all about the money," she said, mentioning that her mother has lived in the rapidly gentrifying area near the proposed Atlantic Yards project since 1967.

"She wants to stay right here," her daughter said. "You'll have to take her out when she's dead."

Since the demolition and brick work began, the Barretos say they are the ones who are constantly asked to explain their presence.

"The police ask me if I'm a squatter," Migdalia Barreto said. "I have to explain myself to

everyone passing by."

The Barretos are about to take Scheiner to court, which could end the standoff.

"It's clearly illegal to deprive someone of essential services, including hot water," said Jennifer

Levy of South Brooklyn Legal Services, who is assisting the family.

At first, Scheiner said he wanted to renovate, although he's since shown the building to prospective buyers, the Barretos said.

He has not offered the family a new lease since he bought the building two years ago — for the low price of \$500,000, city records show. It is worth far more than that today, real estate experts said.

Scheiner hung up on a Brooklyn Papers reporter twice this week.

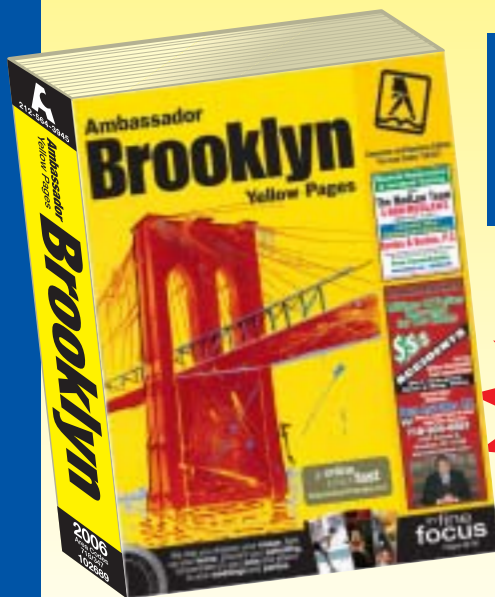
"If you call me one more time, I'll take out a restraining order," he said before the line went dead.



Carmen Barreto at her window at 499 Dean St. (above, left). The building's owner is covering all the other windows with cinder blocks.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

September 30, 2006



A decade of good 'Eats'

Over 50 exhibitors to converge at 10th annual tasting event in Downtown Brooklyn

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

If your idea of heaven is a vast room where chefs stand side-by-side dishing out great fare, then consider the revolving door of the Brooklyn Marriott your Pearly Gates. Beyond the entrance, you'll find the "Brooklyn Eats" food, wine and beer tasting festival to be held on Tuesday, Oct. 3 in the hotel's Grand Ballroom.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the event, which is sponsored by the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. Like the festivals preceding it, this year's smorgasbord promises to be grand. With over 50 of Brooklyn's best restaurants, gourmet grocers, caterers, wine- and beer-dealers participating, the dining is sure to be inspired.

"After 10 years, Brooklyn Eats is still going strong," said Kenneth Adams, the outgoing Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce president. "It's a great reflection of the fantastic growth of the borough's restaurant industry, and it's exciting for us to see the success of eateries that have participated previously. The event salutes our long time classics and shines a light on new, high quality

restaurants that we hope will become destination spots."

One of the "classics," celebrating her 10th return to the festival, is Jennifer Ewers of Brawta Caribbean Cafe in Boerum Hill and the Brawta Outpost in Park Slope. Ewers was among the three restaurants that participated in the first event when it was held in the YMCA on Third Avenue.

"Even then," she says, "I knew from the spirit of the affair that it would continue, and that it would be great. Each year we introduce something new at the festival, and every year we have diners coming to the restaurant afterwards saying, 'You know the dish you served at Brooklyn Eats? That's what we want.' So I know that participating drives business."

Stop by Ewers's table at Brooklyn Eats where she will debut chicken "escabeche," with onions, peppers and carrots in ginger vinaigrette served with jasmine rice.

Like Ewers, Steve Hindy, the president and co-founder of Williamsburg's Brooklyn Brewery, was on hand at the inaugural Brooklyn Eats and will return this year.

"Brooklyn Eats is a wonderful celebration of

DINING

The 10th annual "Brooklyn Eats" food, wine and beer tasting festival will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 3, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Brooklyn Marriott's Grand Ballroom (333 Adams St. between Tillary and Willowby streets in Downtown Brooklyn, 718) 245-7000. Tickets ordered in advance are \$95 for VIP admission that allows attendees to enter at 5:30 p.m. and \$75, with admission beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tickets purchased at the door are \$95, with admission at 6:30 p.m. To order, call (866) 468-7619 or log onto the Web site www.ticketweb.com.

The diversity and vitality of the borough's restaurant scene," he says. "The Chamber of Commerce deserves a round of applause for conceiving of and promoting this event."

Hindy will be pouring the brewery's latest beer, "Brooklyn Blast," that he describes as "very strong and heavily 'hopped.'"

Among the newcomers is Rafael Hasid, the owner of Miriam in Park Slope and the Hill Diner in Cobble Hill.

"I love Brooklyn. I love food. So it's natural that I'd want to participate at the festival," he

says. Miriam's chef, Ido Ben Shmuel and Vittorio Arvivi plan to serve "burek," a flaky pastry filled with roasted eggplant and peppers, feta cheese and basil.

First timers to the Brooklyn restaurant scene as well as the festival are Allison McDowell and Gary Jonas, who opened The Farm on Adderley in Ditmas Park this summer.

"It's a pleasure to introduce our restaurant to diners at Brooklyn Eats," says Jonas. The restaurant's chef, Tom Kearney, will be serving smoked blue fish topped with apple-onion relish on toast crisps and dates filled with goat cheese and pecans.

Adam Shepherd is participating for the second time. The chef, who recently closed Taku, an Asian restaurant on Smith Street, will be debuting his not-yet-open La Lunetta, a northern Italian small plate eatery and wine bar, also on Smith Street.

"Brooklyn Eats is one of the best food events in the city. When I attend, I know I'll be in good company. Besides, it's a lot fun," says Shepherd, who is still tinkering with La Lunetta's festival menu.

The chefs and other attendees will set up tables about the stadium-sized area and load them with

cheese, pate, pasta, Asian specialties, tiny quiches, towering piles of barbecued ribs and bowls of beautifully dressed salad. Wine is poured with abandon; cupcakes make a homey display while slices of elaborately iced cakes wait nearby.

A special 10th birthday celebration, still in the planning stages, will add to the evening's entertainment.

For the fifth year, the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce will announce the winners of its "Brooklyn Eats" scholarships. Prizes of \$1000 each will be awarded to aspiring pastry chefs Veronica Maldonado, Rhonda Ronkon and Jude Nwatuoku, students enrolled in the Hospitality Management program at the New York City College of Technology, CUNY, in Downtown Brooklyn. The trio will serve a creation developed specially for the event.

With all of these scrumptious samples in the works, here's a few pieces of advice from someone who has attended six Brooklyn Eats events: Think big, as in big clothes (you'll fade quickly in anything with a tight waist); big appetite (portions may be small, but it's all in the volume); and a great big glass of Alka-Seltzer afterwards (for obvious reasons).

BROOKLYN Bites

Brooklyn Eats Participants Guide

Whether it's your first Brooklyn Eats, or you've been to the last nine of these dining extravaganzas, it's imperative that a foodie plan their attack before going into the festival at the Brooklyn Marriott on Tuesday, Oct. 3. With more than 50 exhibitors to check out in just two short hours — three hours if you splurge for VIP access — advance preparation is a must.

Use this special edition of GO Brooklyn to learn about the festival's past, present and future (see "A decade of good 'Eats,'" above), read detailed descriptions of each of this year's exhibitors in "Brooklyn Bites," then plan your culinary conquest with our map on page 8.

And if time runs out before one can chat with all the chefs or sample all of the dishes on their wishlist, this guide can be kept to the next night out, business lunch, weekend brunch or delivery. Most of all, we hope our readers will use this issue to make some tasty, new discoveries.

— Lisa J. Curtis, GO Brooklyn Editor

- Abu's Homestyle Bakery**
1184 Fulton St. at Bedford Avenue, (718) 230-1115, www.abusbakery.com (AmEx, MC, Visa) Pastries, cakes and pies: \$1-\$2.50.
Find yourself in a sweets-lover's heaven when you enter this small bakery. Owner Idry Corry has been providing Brooklyn with dozens of assorted homemade pastries, cakes and pies for the last six years, and even ships them nationwide. The signature item, bean pie, never stops pleasing, says Corry's son, manager Idry Brathwaite. For the bean pie, navy beans are used as part of the custard filling, which is topped with a thin layer of cinnamon and butter. An African-American delicacy created as an alternative to apple pie or sweet potato pie. Brathwaite calls the bakery's bean pie "the jazz of dessert culture." The bakery also gives "a different spin" to carrot cake and German chocolate cake, and makes wedding cakes and personalized photo cakes. For larger orders, delivery is available for a \$10 fee. Open Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 10 pm; Saturdays, from 10 am to 10 pm; and Sundays, from 10 am to 5 pm.
- Amelia Ristorante**
8305 Third Ave. at 83rd Street, (718) 660-4450 (AmEx, Disc, Visa) Entrees: \$15.95-\$24.95. *
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- Archives**
333 Adams St. at Tillary Street, (718) 222-4563, www.marriott.com/nyck (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$15-\$35.
This cozy restaurant in the New York Marriott Brooklyn Hotel is elegant, with comfortable seating. Archives offers a wide variety of seafood, pasta, poultry, beef and vegetarian dishes. A typically hearty entrée by executive chef Ben Cottrell is the crab-crusted George's Bank cod loin with French beans. Other
- Arirang Hibachi Steakhouse**
8812-14 Fourth Ave. at 89th Street, (718) 238-9880, www.partyonthe grill.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$11.95-\$41.95.
At Arirang, open since 1993, you can dine at one of 22 hibachi tables in a "fun and relaxed atmosphere," in the words of manager Dan Guenther. At these tables, dishes such as the "Emperor's Deluge" (fillet mignon, lobster tail, shrimp and scallops) are "all prepared in front of you by expert Oriental chefs." Guenther also recommends the miso-glazed Chilean sea bass, quickly fire-broiled and served with an assortment of Japanese pickles. There are also two sushi bars, a cocktail lounge, two private party rooms, and a quieter dining room without hibachi tables. Takeout and party packages available. Open daily for dinner.
- Aunt Suzie's**
247 Fifth Ave. at Carroll Street, (718) 788-3377, www.auntsuzies.com (MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9.90-\$16.90. *
The family portraits covering the walls will make you feel like you've known Aunt Suzie your whole life.

- Bamboo Stick**
6414 Fourth Ave. at 65th Street, (718) 238-5531 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8.75-\$16.95.
With its grand opening announced on Sept. 13, Bamboo Stick replaces Peter How's Banana Leaf at this location. But don't worry. The menu of the new owner, Wyshon Chen, is similar. With its mix of Chinese, Thai and Indian cuisine, this Malaysian restaurant offers diverse appetizers from vegetable dumplings to crab cakes. For your entree, manager Michelle Lim recommends the lobster, sautéed in house-made wine. Save some room for desserts such as fried ice cream or the sesame creme brulee served with strawberry ice cream. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Delivery is available.

You'll feel right at home as you peruse the modestly priced, traditional Italian offerings at this restaurant that has been serving Slopes since 1987. This is comfort food Italian-style by chef James Moccia. Start your dinner with the cold "Auntie-Pasta" sampler, a combo of fresh mozzarella, sun-dried tomatoes, marinated artichoke hearts and the like. Carbohydrates include baked all with broccoli and your choice of pasta in spinach pesto, and cheese tortellini with "grandma's meat sauce." For an entree, try the eggplant parmesan or lobster tails with pasta. And whatever you do, don't forget the mozzarella garlic bread! Open daily for dinner at 5 p.m., except Sundays, when Aunt Suzie's opens at 1 p.m.

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BITES...

Continued from page 7...

Bierkraft

191 Fifth Ave. at Union Street, (718) 230-1600 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa). Walk into this gourmet shop and you'll be surrounded by more than 700 kinds of beer. As members of the American Cheese Society, Bierkraft's owners are also very particular about the 275 cheeses they stock, most made by small producers. The selection of fresh breads and chocolates from around the world are ingredients for distinctive gift baskets, too. Free beer and cheese tastings every Tuesday at 7 p.m. Open Monday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Bouillabaisse 126

126 Union St. at Columbia Street, (718) 853-4205, www.bouillabaisse126.com (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa). Entrees: \$10-\$19.

Yugoslavian-born chef and owner Neil Ganic moved his one-room French bistro from Atlantic Avenue to the Columbia Street Waterfront District in December 2004. With a large front dining room and a lower level that connects to garden seating, the ambience may have changed but the cuisine has not. From the big blackboard catering from table to table, diners can select a wine-poached pear or a super-sized crab cake before moving on to the restaurant's namesake specialty. Their bouillabaisse is a fish stew filled with half a lobster, big sea scallops, shell-on shrimp, mussels and a chunk of cod, all in a saffron-infused broth. For dessert, try the creme brulee "tarte tatin" (a French version of apple pie), or chocolate soufflé. Bouillabaisse 126 is open daily for lunch, brunch on weekends, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Brawta Caribbean Cafe

347 Atlantic Ave. at Hoyt Street, (718) 853-5215, www.brawta.com, also in Park Slope at 447 Seventh Ave. at 15th Street, (718) 788-6480 (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa). Entrees: \$12-\$20.

This small Caribbean restaurant that opened in 1993 offers colorful dishes in huge portions. Seafood items include spicy curried coconut shrimp, pork shrimp with mango salsa, and cornish cod. For a uniquely West Indian flavor, owner Jennifer Evers recommends the "ackee" not a soft fried bread filled with chick peas and the soft yellow tofu. "This is the Jamaican national dish," says Evers. Vegetarian dishes such as "rasta pasta," tofuri and pork tofu are available.

Brawta is BYOB, but don't forget about their fresh-squeezed juices like mango, fruit punch or pineapple. A sweet combination of ginger and pineapple, or exotic sorrel (hibiscus flower drink), is worth missing (a seamos tonic or peanut punch).

For dessert, Brawta offers their own mango or pineapple cheesecake, and bread or rice pudding topped with rum sauce. The Park Slope outpost is takeout and delivery only; it's open till 7 p.m. and is closed on Mondays. The Atlantic Avenue location seats 30 and is open daily for lunch and dinner; sidewalk seating is available in warm weather.

Brooklyn Brewery

72 N. 11th St. at Wythe Avenue, (718) 486-7422 (AmEx, MC, Visa). Beers: \$3 for 14 oz.

In 1987, Steve Hindy and his neighbor Tom Potter teamed up in hopes of resurrecting a once-thriving industry in Brooklyn — beer brewing. Shortly after their meeting, the duo created their first beer, the robust Brooklyn Lager. Potter has since retired, but he and Hindy teamed up again to publish "Brewing for Dummies" (John Wiley & Sons) in 2005. The brewery, which produces more than 14 different kinds of lagers and ales, including five year-round standards and other seasonal beers, is still teaming over with success. Beer drinkers may tour the 12,000-square-foot brewing facility on Saturdays, as well as sample the hearty selection in the brewery's 150-seat indoor tasting room on Friday nights and Saturday afternoons. While the brewery does not serve food, it does encourage patrons to bring their own or order in. Tours, including a free tasting, are available every Saturday at 1, 2, 3 and 4 p.m. The tasting room is open Fridays, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., and Saturdays, from 6 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Brooklyn Ice Cream Factory

On Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River, (718) 246-3963 (Cash only). Scoops: \$3 for 1, \$5 for 2, \$6 for 3.

Open since 2001, this New England-style ice cream shack, located right on Fulton Ferry Landing, is open year-round to refresh visitors and locals alike on Fulton



Something old, something new: Cobble Hill classic Sweet Melissa Patisserie opened a second location in Park Slope this month.

take in the panoramic views of the Manhattan skyline.

"Mark Thompson excels at making curried ice cream," says GO Brooklyn's Tina Barry, which may be why vanilla is still the top seller of his eight classic flavors. Other popular choices are vanilla chocolate, chocolate chocolate, and strawberry. Special flavors are also offered whenever Thompson is inspired to concoct them. If you have an unusually large craving, go for the \$7.50 banana split, a heaping mound of three scoops of ice cream, hot fudge, whipped cream and, of course, sliced bananas. Cool.

Caffe Buono

151 Montague St. at Henry Street, (718) 624-3838 (AmEx, MC, Visa). Entrees: \$9.95-\$16.95.

What makes Caffe Buono NYC's classic Italian fare so unique is the everything-made-from-scratch approach of chef-owner Nando Ghiorchini. All pastas, sauces and desserts are made from scratch here. The patrons' favorites are homemade focaccia and the award-winning tramisu. "The tramisu is to die for," says manager Royce Bianchi. "Even Italians say it's the best they ever had."

The wine menu, which includes many Italian wines, also receives compliments. The decade-old restaurant offers a full bar and a seasonal a la carte cafe. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Brunch is served on weekends, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. A three-course, \$20.00 pre-fixe menu is available daily.

Cafe Man Raven

708 Fulton St. at Fort Greene Park, (718) 797-2598, www.cafemanraven.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa). Cakes: \$25-\$180.

Raven Patrick De'Sean Dennis II, a.k.a. "Cafe Man Raven," learned to bake in his grandma's kitchen in South Carolina when he was knee-high to a grasshopper. It's a skill that has served him well. His Southern red velvet cake has melted in the mouths of celebrities as old-school as Lena Horne and Cab Calloway and as new as pop stars like Justin Timberlake. The Cafe Man also dabbles in cookies, pastries and pies. His wedding cakes are gorgeous, too, and he can do seemingly anything with fondant. Just ask. Open daily.

Casa Pepe

114 Bay Ridge Ave. at 69th Street, (718) 832-8865, www.casapepe.com (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa). Entrees: \$12-\$25.

The courtly Spanish and Mexican-style of Casa Pepe will leave a smile on your face and a fiesta in your heart. Since its start in 1980, James Sarz, a native Spaniard, has been serving Mexican favorites, like fajitas, chimichangas and "enchiladas poblanas" — soft corn tortillas filled with chicken, mole poblano sauce, "fresco" cheese, and avocado slices. Sarz's "flautas barandas" are pan-fried, in-coriander corn tortillas, filled with shredded skirt steak, that are served with black beans, rice, guacamole and sour cream.

But wait, there's Spanish cuisine here, too! Chef Marcel Zumbi serves up "mariscada en salsa verde" (littleneck clams, Prince Edward Island mussels, Gulf shrimp, calamari and Maine lobster with parsley, extra virgin olive oil and garlic

served with saffron oil), "langosta rellena" (Maine lobster, stuffed with lump crabmeat and shrimp, served with vegetables of the day), and, of course, the traditional "arroz con pollo." Casa Pepe also has a party room that can accommodate 120 guests. Open Wednesday-Monday for lunch and dinner, Sunday brunch, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Garden seats available in season. Closed on Tuesdays.

Clemente's Maryland Crabhouse

(at the Venice Marina), 2939 Emmons Ave. at Knapp Street, (718) 446-2373, (Cash only). Entrees: \$8.95-\$24.95.

What started out in 1913 as a door-to-door family coffee business carried out on horseback is today a nationally recognized coffee importing and roasting company with relationships with the world's largest coffee-growing countries (such as Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Brazil, Puerto Rico, Papua New Guinea and Colombia). With their motto "We sell coffee, we love and nothing else," Dallas Coffee maintains the highest standards of coffee from "mountaintop to counter-top," according to their Web site. They even teach their customers — which are primarily restaurants and distributors — how to brew the perfect cup.

Do Islands

6203 Flushing Ave. at East 82nd Street, (718) 241-3609; 1489 Flatbush Ave. at Glenwood Road, (718) 484-3296 (Cash only). Entrees: \$4.99-\$9.99.

Kas Persaud, who was born in Guyana and lived in Jamaica before moving to the Bronx, saw a need for a fast-food

Clemente's is now open for dinner, daily and lunch, too, Friday through Sunday.

Dallis Coffee

100-30 Atlantic Ave. at 102nd Street in Queens, (800) 424-4252, www.dallis-coffee.com.

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Erica's Rugelach and Baking Co.

(718) 965-3657, www.ericasrugelach.com (AmEx, MC, Visa). Gift packages: \$17-\$35; wholesale: \$6-\$12 per pound (10-pound minimum).

Erica Kalick's obsession with rugelach goes back to the 1960s, when she watched her great aunt make the delectable as a child. As an adult, Kalick realized that she couldn't find any rugelach that she liked around town, so she decided to make her own. When she offered it to friends, "they went crazy for it," she says. That was in 1987. Now, this Park Slope resident provides wholesale rugelach, coconut macarons, almond-raspberry Linzer hearts, "hamantaschen" (traditional triangular pastries enjoyed during the Jewish holiday Purim), and chocolate to cakes and specialty food stores, like Dean & DeLuca and Whole Foods. But you can easily get these desserts through her Web site or order a whole package as a sweet gift. Kalick's personal favorite is the raspberry and chocolate rugelach. "I can't keep chocolate out of there because what is life without chocolate?" she says.

Caribbean restaurant. "There is nothing like this around," says the owner. In 2003, he opened 45-seat De Islands on Flatlands Avenue and this year added a small, express eatery on Midwood. The food? Jerk chicken, of course. Persaud says that De Islands goes through 2000 pounds of chicken and high tables and chairs. Couples can sit in the secluded back section of the cafe, where the location is open daily. Flatlands location is open Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. Closed Sundays.

Eddie's Flying Pizza

926 Third Ave. at 35th Street, (718) 768-7437, www.flyingpizzas.com (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa). Cakes: \$12-\$18, by the slice: \$1.75.

Eddie's Flying Pizza may be a simple, 72-seat fast-food joint, but as owner Eddie Falbaum says, they hold a record in the 2001 "Guinness Book of World Records." No, not for the biggest pizza nor for the greatest. They hold a record for the longest pizza delivery. As home of the Flying Pizza Pie Company, they flew their pie to a hungry customer in Japan. Why, you ask, would someone across the ocean order their pizza? Falbaum says it's because theirs is "the best pizza in New York." (Their Web site claims that their pizzas and rugelach are kosher, too.) In addition to pizza, the Sunset Park restaurant offers classic Mediterranean, American, and Italian dishes. Eddie's Flying Pizza is also a wholesale supplier of pizzas to supermarkets across the country. Open Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Closed on weekends. Delivery is available, even if you are vacationing in Japan.

Erica's Rugelach and Baking Co.

(718) 965-3657, www.ericasrugelach.com (AmEx, MC, Visa). Gift packages: \$17-\$35; wholesale: \$6-\$12 per pound (10-pound minimum).

Erica Kalick's obsession with rugelach goes back to the 1960s, when she watched her great aunt make the delectable as a child. As an adult, Kalick realized that she couldn't find any rugelach that she liked around town, so she decided to make her own. When she offered it to friends, "they went crazy for it," she says. That was in 1987. Now, this Park Slope resident provides wholesale rugelach, coconut macarons, almond-raspberry Linzer hearts, "hamantaschen" (traditional triangular pastries enjoyed during the Jewish holiday Purim), and chocolate to cakes and specialty food stores, like Dean & DeLuca and Whole Foods. But you can easily get these desserts through her Web site or order a whole package as a sweet gift. Kalick's personal favorite is the raspberry and chocolate rugelach. "I can't keep chocolate out of there because what is life without chocolate?" she says.

Footprints Cafe

5814 Clandenn Road at East 58th Street, (718) 451-3181 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa). Entrees: \$9-\$25.

If you want to see and be seen, sit at the bar-like front section of the restaurant with exposed windows and high tables and chairs. Couples can sit in the secluded back section of the cafe, where the location is open daily. Flatlands location is open Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. Closed Sundays.

Greenhouse Cafe

7717 Third Ave. at 77th Street, (718) 833-8200, www.greenhousecafe.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa). Entrees: \$12-\$20.

Since 1979, Brooklynites have been sitting down in one of this Bay Ridge restaurant's three dining rooms, or on the back deck, to indulge in Greenhouse Cafe's variety of soups, salads, pastas and meat dishes. Floor-to-ceiling windows surround the rear dining room, giving the restaurant its name. Co-owner John Keegan recommends the roasted, boneless London broil duckling served with a fruit sauce, which changes daily. The entire is served with a combination of three different fish that change daily.

Hena Coffee

321 Flushing Ave. at East 82nd Street, (718) 272-8237, www.henacoffee.com (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa).

East New York's Hena Coffee, owned by Lanny and Scott Tauber, roasts, grinds and packages Colombian coffee for wholesale and is also a wholesale distributor of coffee equipment, tea, hot chocolate and similar products from all over the world. Open Monday-Friday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

I-Sheeben Madiba

195 DeKalb Ave. at Carlton Avenue, (718) 555-1192, www.i-sheeben.com (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa). Entrees: \$12-\$24.

Stepping into Madiba is like bursting into the Kasab; billowy interior canopies, a wooden bar and pottery-topped benches transport you to the Johannesburg getaway. Madiba, which claims to be the only South African restaurant on the East Coast, is a tribute to Nelson Mandela. ("Madiba" means "Father of the Nation.") Chef-owner Mark Henegar's unique South African recipes include the Durban samosa (lighter-spiced vegetable in a pastry triangle served with mango "achras," spicy pickled mango), "potjie lech" (a slow-cooked stew served in a three-legged, cast-iron pot) and ostrich carpaccio with marinated sautéed peppers. Also on the menu, Durban "barney chow" is a quarter loaf of bread filled with a curried stew of chicken, mutton and vegetables and served

Jive Turkey

441 Myrtle Ave. at Waverly Avenue, (718) 797-1688, www.jiveturkey.com (AmEx, MC, Visa). Entrees: \$22-\$27.95; whole turkeys: \$44.95-\$74.95.

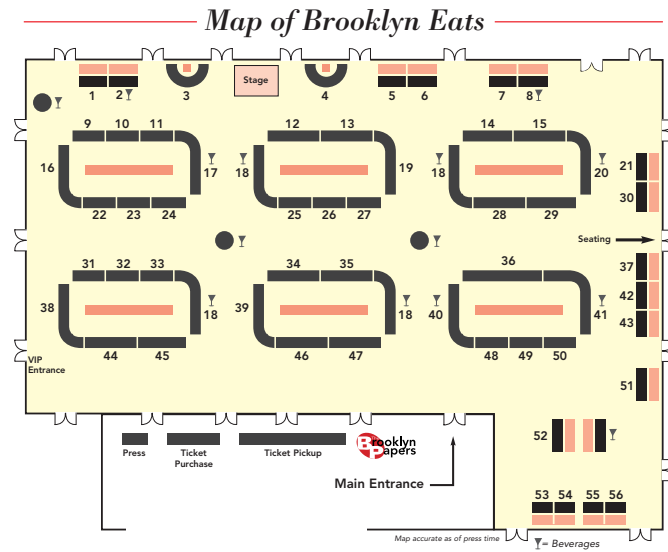
Jive Turkey is the largest evolution of the popular quick-casual trend, offering customers the simple pleasures of convenient, quality food. "We deep-fry the turkeys in very hot peanut oil for 18- to 24-minutes. The result is much juicier on the inside with a light crisp on the outside," says owner Arida Westbrook of Jive Turkey's signature dish. The menu features 15 different flavors of whole fried turkeys ranging from honey pecan and lemon pepper to peach bourbon and orange zinfandel, in addition to entrees, grilled sandwiches and salads. Jive Turkey, which opened its doors to Brooklyn in 2003, also serves a menu of homemade desserts including extra large Rice Krispy treats, bread pudding, cupcakes, and cookies. While the restaurant offers limited seating, there is a "grab, gobble and go" menu of salads, sandwiches, meatballs and sides. Jive Turkey serves five flavors of homemade lemonade, particularly popular on summer days. Whole turkeys can be shipped nationwide. Catering available. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Joyva Corporation

53 Varick Ave. at Ingham Street, (718) 497-0170, www.joyvacorp.com (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa).

For several millennia, halvah has been called "food of the Gods." Some even believed that this ancient confection, which in Turkish means "sweet meat," is a source of immortality and fertility. In 1907, Nathan Radzky, an immigrant from Kiev, brought his recipe for this blend of sesame seed paste and sugar to the Lower East Side. Now based in Williamsburg, Radzky's Joyva Corporation produces several kinds of halvah, sesame tahini, sesame crunch candies, nut rings, and marshmallow treats. For halvah lovers, Richard Radzky, Nathan's grandson, recommends his favorite, the chocolate-covered halvah. Joyva's products can be purchased by the pound or even by the 12.5-pound bucket. Individually wrapped halvah and other candies can also be found in local stores for as little as 60 cents a piece.

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BITES...

Continued from page 8...

They are also available to the general public at these Web sites: www.economycandy.com and www.halvah.biz.

19 Junior's

386 Flatbush Avenue Extension at DeKalb Avenue, (718) 852-5287; www.juniorscheesecake.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa)
Entrees: \$9.25-\$20.95

Opened in 1950, Junior's is a Brooklyn landmark named for founder Harry Rosen's sons, Walter and Marvin, and boasts what might be the most famous cheesecake in America. But Junior's makes more than just a dozen varieties of cheesecake. Have you tried their cookies, croissants or challah? Monday through Thursday from 4:30 pm until closing, Junior's offers a \$14.95 prix-fixe meal including a fresh fruit cup or soup of the day, tossed green salad, a choice of entrees, dessert and soda, coffee or tea. Owners Alan and Kevin Rosen shop their cheesecakes anywhere in the United States. If you haven't indulged, you've got no excuse — no matter where you live. Open Sunday-Wednesday from 6 am to 12:30 am; Thursday, from 6:30 am to 1 am; and Friday and Saturdays, from 6:30 am to 2 am.

20 KUSH

17 Putnam Ave. at Grand Avenue, (718) 230-3471; www.kushofis.com (DC, MC, Visa)
Entrees: \$6-\$14

Open since January 2005, Kush's walla feature works by neighborhood artists, and the shelves are lined with books about African life. One of the signature African-French fusion dishes is the "bakissa," a tender filet of tilapia, wrapped in banana leaves, drizzled with palm oil and accompanied by African-style "matouk" — a side of vegetable stew and a side of fried plantain, cassava or couscous. Another signature dish, says chef and owner Samuel Belet, is the "brochette," a shrimp-and-egg kebabs that is deeply marinated, then grilled, and served with sautéed spinach, roasted plantain, Creole rice and mango-papaya salsa. A lighter option is a \$10.95 salad with hearts of palm, asparagus, roasted beets, tomatoes and toasted almonds. The apple and plantain tart served with vanilla ice cream makes a fitting grand finale. Open for dinner, Tuesday through Sunday, and for brunch on weekends, from 10 am to 4 pm. Closed Mondays. Garden cafe seating is offered year-round.

18 La Lunetta

715 Smith St. at Pacific Street, (718) 488-6269 (AmEx, MC, Visa)
Entrees: \$8-\$16

Starting Oct. 2, La Lunetta, a rustic, Northern Italian restaurant, will replace Taku, which will be moving to Manhattan. Still owned by Chef Adam Shepherd, La Lunetta ("little moon" in Italian) will sit at 65 in its warm, modern dining room and 30 in the garden. Expect rustic, Mediterranean, seasonal and sustainable cuisine, with pasta like penne with rosemary-brusted lamb and ricotta, small plates that double as sides such as "panzanella" salad with crispy mozzarella, and entrees like roasted cod fish and braised pork belly with stewed runner beans. While the wine menu will feature many Italian and organic options, the full bar will offer classic cocktails, grappas, espresso and tea. Open daily for dinner.

20 Liberty Heights Tap Room

34 Van Dyke St. at Dwight Street, (718) 246-8050; www.libertyheightstaproom.com (MC, Visa)
Entrees: \$8-\$16

Just a few blocks from the city's best view of the welcoming lady of the harbor, this neighborhood pub offers microbrews (from \$4.50 a pint), served fresh from the tap, plus wines and spirits. Owner Steve Depluta and his right hand in the kitchen, Josh Ilich, make pizza and focaccia in their brick oven, and serve beer-friendly fare such as salads, sandwiches, calamari, Buffalo wings, mozzarella sticks and cheese fries. Dine indoors, outdoors or on a rooftop deck (open as long as Mother Nature allows), or play pool. There's also plenty of parking, open from Thursdays and live music on Fridays and Saturdays starting at 9 pm. Closed Tuesdays. There are also kids rock concerts one Saturday a month.

20 Magnolia Restaurant

485 Sixth Ave. at 12th Street, (718) 369-4814; www.magnolia-brooklyn.com (AmEx, DC, MC, Visa)
Entrees: \$12-\$24.95



Greene acres: RICE co-owner Peter Lawrence at his Fort Greene location.

21 Magnolia

485 Sixth Ave. at 12th Street, (718) 369-4814; www.magnolia-brooklyn.com (AmEx, DC, MC, Visa)
Entrees: \$12-\$24.95

Magnolia's mahogany bar and 14 tables illuminated by candlelight make for a romantic, yet casual, setting that goes well with the contemporary American menu. Co-owners Roger Espinoza and Robert Trzcinski agree that many customers are drawn by their special "cowboy" bone-in-rib-eye steaks that are dry-aged for 21 days, cut to order, grilled and served with either garlic mashed potatoes, steak fries or a vegetable of the day. Start the meal at Magnolia by tasting their well-known jumbo lump crab cakes. To end the dining experience, Magnolia offers, among other desserts, a mocha truffle cake, fluffy warm chocolate cake topped with a scoop of homemade espresso ice cream and a swirl of fresh whipped cream. The \$8.95 Sunday brunch is offered from 11 am to 4 pm; \$5-\$11.75 with a bloody Mary or mimosa. Open daily for dinner.

20 Marco Polo Ristorante

345 Court St. at Union Street, (718) 852-5015; www.marcolopolaristorante.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa)
Entrees: \$10.95-\$23.95

One of Brooklyn's most elegant dining rooms, Marco Polo boasts vaulted ceilings, a banquet room, a formally dressed and knowledgeable waitstaff and a sophisticated menu that reflects the taste of its owner, Joe Chicco, a veteran restaurateur. Marco Polo has an Italian menu that includes an array of hot and cold appetizers, soups, salads, home-made pasta, fish, chicken, veal, steaks and chops prepared by chef Bruno Milano. The dessert section offers pastries, cakes, tortes, fruit sorbet and homemade gelato. Marco Polo is best known for its tableside preparation. At your table, the "fettuccine al vino rosso," or red wine fettuccine, is tossed in a Parmesan cheese wheel. For a dessert, the strawberry lamb, made with fresh berries, champagne and sugar, is heated and then rolled into a crepe and topped with ice cream right before your eyes. Marco Polo is open daily for dinner. Lunch is served Monday through Friday. Live music is offered on weekends at 7 pm.

20 Maria's Mexican Bistro

669 Union St. at Fourth Avenue, (718) 638-2344; www.mariasbistro.com (AmEx, MC, Visa)
Entrees: \$5-\$15

Owner Nelson Napachupa's three-year-old restaurant is already well-known in Brooklyn. He says that's because the restaurant brings something different to authentic Mexican cuisine — something no other Mexican restaurant in the New York area offers. "We try to bring something different," he says, naming ingredients like the Mexican herb "epazote" and jalapeño, a root that's been called the "Mexican turnip." Napachupa says his cuisine is primarily influenced by northern and central Mexico. He recommends the chiles rellenos — one Chile pepper stuffed with cheese, and another stuffed with chicken, raisins, nut, sweet plantains and fresh apple in a home-made spicy pomegranate sauce. He also recommends the "bisteque tangarina," a grilled sirloin steak

cooked with a "special tequila," served with red and green poblano peppers, onions and rice, and topped with goat cheese quesadillas. Maria's also offers ceviche, additional seafood dishes and six to eight seasonal specials each week. The restaurant has also expanded and now seats 100 with a big bar, party room and sidewalk seating. Delivery available. Open daily for lunch and dinner, and for brunch on weekends, from 10:30 am to 10 pm.

20 Melt

440 Bergen St. at Fifth Avenue, (718) 230-5925 (MC, Visa)
Entrees: \$14-\$23

Open since June 2005, this purveyor of "creative new American" food offers "approachable cuisine and prices for an upscale dining experience," says Melt's Director of Operations, Cerk Fikri. The creative menu, which gathers influences from all over the world, represents a high standard of food "stripped of the ho-ho of Manhattan," Fikri says. He recommends chef Brian Burger's "very succulent" herb-enriched pork tenderloin with a peach-cherry balsamic drizzle, served with a sweet corn polenta and sautéed spinach. Fikri also recommends the penne-roasted bronzini with sun-dried tomatoes, grilled zucchini and lemon caper. "Beurre noisette" (brown butter), regular seafood specialties, slow-roasted duck, and menu standards like burgers and

grilled skirt steak still stay "on the creative side." And with its large front windows, sleek bar, modern white tables and stylish lighting — who needs Manhattan when you can have it all in Park Slope? On Tuesday nights, Melt offers a \$20 five-course tasting menu (and a \$20 wine tasting to complement the food tasting). Open daily for dinner, and for brunch on weekends, from 11 am to 4 pm.

20 Michael-Towne Wines & Spirits

73 Clark St. at Henry Street, (718) 875-3667 (AmEx, MC, Visa)

Michael-Towne Wines & Spirits, originally established as Towne Wines & Spirits in 1934, is located inside the historic Hotel St. George in Brooklyn Heights. In 2001, Towne Wines & Spirits combined with another Brooklyn Heights company, Michael's Wines. "We've recently expanded and now have over 1,000 wines and spirits from around the world," says co-owner Rick Landi. "We have Brooklyn's largest selection of chilled wine, probably the biggest selection of grapes — with over 20 varieties, and we have a tremendous selection of California wines." Expand your wine horizons by going to Michael-Towne's wine tastings, offered on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, from 5 pm to 8 pm.

20 Miriam

79 Fifth Ave. at Prospect Place, (718) 622-2250; www.miriam-restaurant.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa)
Entrees: \$14.50-\$24

Rafael Haisid named his newest restaurant in honor of his mother. At Miriam, Haisid offers contemporary Israeli cuisine, a global mix with culinary traditions from Eastern Europe to South America. Yet, in this light-

colored space, the atmosphere is recognizably Middle Eastern, filled with elegant glass lamps that cast soft light on the diners. At Miriam, Haisid (who also owns Hill Diner in Cobble Hill) offers Mediterranean salad, with avocado and spring veggie wrapped in eggplant strips and topped with feta, mozzarella, and chicken "shawarma," accented with mango chutney and green lentils. For dessert, there is always the "maki," custard topped with rose syrup, pistachios and coconut flakes. Miriam offers beer and wine, which is half-price on Mondays and Tuesdays. Open daily for dinner. Brunch is served weekends, from 10 am to 4 pm.

20 Mojito Cuban Cuisine

82 Washington Ave. at Park Avenue, (718) 797-5102; www.mojitocuban.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa)
Entrees: \$10-\$19

Since 2004, Cuban cigar boxes and posters displaying cigars have adorned the exposed brick walls at Mojito, while traditional Latin music plays in the background. The owner, Marcello Arias's restaurant offers Cuban cuisine for dine-in, take-out, delivery or catering. Mojito serves empanadas, filled with ham and cheese or the eclectic paqui and cheese; a Cuban sandwich served with pineapple colander and "cane asada" (black angus steak) served with rice and beans and chimichurri sauce on the side. Desserts range from "cuatro leches" (four milks) to Cuban line pie. Don't forget to have one of the namesake cocktails, like the mojito or mojito or the mango fruit-shake. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

20 New York City College of Technology, CUNY

Hospitality Services Management Department, 300 Jay St. at Fulton Street, (718) 260-5000; www.citytech.cuny.edu

The New York City College of Technology (NYCCT) has the largest culinary arts, tourism and hotel management programs in the United States, offering internationally recognized associate and bachelor's degrees for New York residents and non-residents, according to Hospitality Services Management Peer Assistant Kaitlyn Cambridge. At this year's "Brooklyn Eats," the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce awarded scholarships to three NYCCT students, chefs-in-training Veronica Maldonado, Rhonda Rondon and Jude Newbold. The three will coordinate their own dessert table at the food fest and will serve samples of their own "City Tech's Wild Raspberry Cake."

20 New York Gourmet Salad

225 60th St. at Second Avenue, (718) 765-0082 (Cash only)

Lenny Spada started his wholesale salad business 25 years ago when he worked as a truck driver for other companies. Coming from a family in the food business, he was dissatisfied with the quality of products he was delivering. So he started making his own potato salad, coleslaw and other regular deli

items after his shift. Now, Spada says, he is one of the best suppliers in Brooklyn. "And I think I'm one of the good ones," he says. "Our goal was to have the best stuff cut out there." New York Gourmet Salads offers everything from basic pasta salads and flavored cream cheeses to meatloaf and lasagna. In addition to supplying delis, he also offers catering. In fact, he does not mind if private citizens come into his Sunset Park location to order things for home. With prices at 80 cents per pound of salad or 50 cents per pound of wraps, it is truly hard to resist.

20 Pete's Downtown

2 Water St. at Old Fulton Street, (718) 858-3515; www.petesdowntown.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa)
Entrees: \$18-\$26

Come early to ensure a table with a divine view. The backdrop of the Brooklyn Bridge and the Manhattan skyline off from Henry Landing (visible both from the outdoor cafe and from inside the restaurant) sets the stage for your Italian meal. Try the pork chops seared with prosciutto, mozzarella and basil, topped with a Marsala wine sauce, served with vegetables and a potato. Or, a fried potato to basket filled with creamy salmon, plantain, vegetables, red onions, arugula and extra-virgin olive oil. Not only is this a "landmark restaurant" due to its extraordinary location at the foot of the Brooklyn Bridge, but four generations of the same family have been serving up food here since 1894.

Conveniences include free valet parking for dinner and a lot available during the day. A private party room is available. Open for lunch and dinner Tuesday through Friday, and for brunch on weekends. Closed Mondays.

20 Press 195

195 Fifth Ave. at Union Street, (718) 857-1950 (Cash only)

What happens when two long-time college friends with a fetish for weekly sandwiches unite? Since June 2002, Brian Karp and Chris Evans have turned their passion into a business of eclectic pressed sandwiches. The restaurant serves 25 quests inside and 30 outside in the garden, weather permitting. The garden "looks like you're in your own backyard," said Karp. Inside, the walls are painted a classic white, and there's plenty of elbowroom between tables. "I call it modern comfort," says Karp of his shop's decor. The vegetarian sandwiches are very popular "because this is just the neighborhood that I eat," says Karp, who just likes to eat. "I like to eat a good sandwich with fresh spig and Provolone cheese, with black olive and roasted garlic sauce lining each side of fresh ciabatta bread. Another vegetarian option is the grilled portofino mushroom sandwich with fresh arugula and

Continued on page 10...

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100 Wine Tips

Did You Say WHITE Burgundy?

By Darrin Siegfried

Part 1

I had to limit myself to only one white wine to drink for the rest of my life, it would be white Burgundy... and I wouldn't hesitate for a second making that choice.

We tend to think of Burgundy as red, because our earliest encounters with the word is as a particular shade of red, tinged with purple. It is a rich hue, deep and dark and regal. Burgundy is an area in France, a former Duchy, which is indeed rich in history and tradition. Located east of Paris, it begins just south of Champagne and stretches down through Beaune and on to Lyon, the gastronomic heart of France. Burgundy is home to the white Chablis cattle, Brese chickens, with their white feathers, red comb and blue feet, plump escargots that fatten on the grapes, dozens of delicious cheeses, and some of the most famous wines in the world. This part of France was known for its wines even when the Romans were still there, and France was called Gaul.

Most Burgundian wines are red, made solely from the noble yet delicate and often difficult Pinot Noir grape. The whites, with only the rarest exceptions, are made from Chardonnay, which takes on the unique character of the individual vineyard producing them, and thus much of what has contributed to the fame of white Burgundy.

Hundreds of years of trial and error, of experimentation and careful note taking has led growers to realize that the chabby, dry soil called Kimmeridge found in certain sites is ideal for planting Chardonnay. This white limestone is rich in decomposed prehistoric oyster shells, and Chablis has an outcropping of this huge limestone basin that, to the west, shows itself as the fabled white cliffs of Dover. Yes, Dover, England.

The area of Chablis is cool, and the cool temperature produces grapes high in natural acidity and not very high in sugar. During fermentation, these sugars are converted into alcohol and the result is a crisp wine with almost no residual sugar — a classic white wine. Chablis can be a hard-edged wine, but should never be flat. The palate can reveal tastes of the mineral-rich soil while the nose has notes of sun-drying hay. The color of Chablis, in its youth, is pale-stone with flashes of green at the edge. With time, this evolves and develops into a deeper hue, more golden, yet still will keep that green spectre for years and years.

The vineyards of Chablis are classified into four levels of quality. The amount of Kimmeridge clay found in that vineyard plays a part, as does the aspect: whether the slope faces south, receiving more sunshine. The quality of the vines from a vineyard over the years (centuries, actually) is the final and most important reason for deeming a site the "crated rank" of "great growth." The highest rated vineyards here, the seven Grands Crus, are found together, shoulder to shoulder. All of them have their own style, yet all are richer than other Chablis. All are wines that deserve to be "put down" to age, so that they can develop the remarkable complexity that sets them apart from other white wines. These are among the most revered of white wines, and the wines made from the finest vintage years are nearly immortal, taking decades to reach the peak of their potential greatness. These wines are never cheap, but, compared to the prices asked for the whites of the Côte de Beaune, they seem relative bargains for the quality received.

Premier Cru is the next designation below Premier Cru. Premier Cru wines will be less commanding in their bouquet and flavor than the Grands Crus, and are normally one half percent lower in alcohol. Not all Premier Cru vineyards are equal, though, and those on the same south facing side as the Grands Crus are the ones that I find more appealing. These wines are still age-worthy, and will develop sooner than a Grand Cru. They are more affordable, and are more approachable, meaning that you can enjoy more of "what's there" while they are still young.

Chablis is the next step in descending order of quality. Don't look down your nose at village-level Chablis from a warm year, and in the hands of an expert sommelier, these wines are delicious and are often excellent values. Most houses do not use oak barrels, so you taste the pure expression of the fruit and the terrain, unmasked by flavors of charred wood that is often used to mask inferior wine.

Petit Chablis is an appellation that has been fading away over the years. Some of the better vineyards have been elevated to "Chablis," and some have been uprooted, the land put to other uses. There are a few good producers of Petit Chablis who, in a "good year" can make quality wines that are bargain, but Buyer, beware! Buy those wines from a wine merchant whom you know and can trust.

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BITE...

Continued from page 9...

goat cheese, also served on ciabatta bread with the black olive and garlic spreads. Open Monday through Thursday, from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, from noon to 11 p.m.; and Sundays, from noon to 10 p.m.

Provence on Boite

263 Smith St. at DeGraw Street, (718) 797-0707 (AmEx, Entrees: \$15-\$19).
Chef-owner Jacques Benoit and his wife, Leslie, returned to Brooklyn's dining scene with the June 15 opening of this traditional French bistro on Smith Street. After a two-year hiatus following the closing of their Bay Ridge restaurant in 2004, the couple serves their French-Provencal cuisine in a golden, roomy dining room with patterned cloth-covered tables. For starters, Benoit recommends the "gratine" a l'oignon, "a French onion soup with toasted crouton and melted Swiss cheese, or the escargot sautéed in butter with garlic and red wine sauce. For entrees, the steak frites are a hit. Benoit's black Angus steak is topped with a dollop of garlic butter and served with sautéed greens and french fries. The "magret de canard" is a serving of most duck breast roasted with berry sauce and served with vegetables. Leslie claims that the "Touillade à la Provençale," a seafood stew flavored with fennel and fennel seeds with saffron "roule" croutons, is "outstanding."

Don't forget to top the meal off with the delicious "crepes" with the filling of your choice for dessert, says Leslie. The restaurant, which also offers catering, is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday, and brunch from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on weekends. Closed Mondays.

Rice

81 Washington St. at Front Street, (718) 222-9880, www.riceny.com (Cash only). Entrees: \$5-\$14.

Gabriele Blicher, a manager at Rice, described her restaurant's cuisine as anything to do with rice. "I don't argue with that. Boasting specialty rice infused with cilantro, parsley, or instead, steamed in coconut milk, the menu of this five-year-old restaurant is largely rice-inspired but also features an eclectic mix of influences including Indonesian, Lebanese and Thai, not to mention great tamales. Blicher said the chicken labu, served with Lebanese rice, steamed vegetables and chicka, is one of the most popular entrees, but the Vietnamese Banh Xang pita salad has been turning heads. So, seasonal fresh juices such as watermelon or apple-lemon-lime, are available, as is patio seating in warmer weather. Owners David Selig and Peter Lawrence won a Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce award for the restaurant's intimate, dimly lit interior, which they designed themselves. Weather permitting, outside dining is available on the adjacent deck. Open daily for lunch and dinner and brunch, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. As of November 2005, Rice has a new location in Fort Greene (146 DeKalb Ave., at Cumberland Street, (718) 858-2700).

Shakor's Sweet Tooth

305 Halsey Ave. at Throat Avenue, (718) 574-2880 (AmEx, MC, Visa). Entrees: \$6-\$12; cheesecake: \$5-\$6 per slice, \$25 whole cake.

The Bad-Spout southern-style soul food rook is earning a reputation for doing wonderful things with that wonderful food, the sweet potato, such as chocolate cakes, pies and pound cakes. In addition to satisfying sweet tooths, co-owner and chef Shakor Wilson offers an even changing menu, which currently highlights BBQ beef short ribs, four potato salad and collard greens or chopped BBQ corn served on a seeded bun. They will be serving a sweet potato cheesecake and apple tart at this year's Brooklyn East. Sweet Tooth also offers a takeout menu and a sugar-free cheesecake. Open Wednesday through Saturday, from noon to 7 p.m.

Shopenieri Catering

(347) 628-4783. (Cash only).

"Shopenieri" is an African-French venture by Onique Oliver to describe the French-Caribbean cuisine of her catering company. It means "delicious." Since 1999, Oliver has been catering birthdays, weddings, banquets, and other large events for 100 to 300 guests since 1999. Oliver has been raised in Guyana, studied French cooking at the Institut Culinaire in New York City. Although her food presentation is in the best French tradition with elaborate artistic design, her cuisine is unmistakably Caribbean fruit with dishes like jerk lamb chops, pomegranate pork, and Caribbean fricasse with cream curried sauce. Oliver hopes to have her Web site, www.shopenieri.com, running by Oct. 3.

Sixpoint Craft Ales

40 Van Dyke St. at Dwight Street, (646) 924-6265, www.sixpointbrewery.com.

Shane C. Welch and Andrew Bronstein, the owners of Sixpoint Craft Ales, chose the name Sixpoint Brewery as a nod to the logo, because the symbol has been used by brewers to signify purity and excellence since the Middle Ages. Welch and Bronstein teamed up through a mutual friend to create a craft beer company in Madison, Wis., where both attended college, and they sold their first Sixpoint keg in February 2005. The Red Hook brewery offers 21 varieties of regional and local beers, including regular beers and additional ones in rotation. The ales are made from barley, malt, hops, yeast and water. The beer is bottled in 16-ounce cans. Welch says the ales also have a "natural" feel. "We do not use any preservatives, chemical additives, or anything that does not fit our vision," says Welch. For now, Sixpoint Craft Ales are available on tap only and are sold in over 100 bars and restaurants in New York, including these Brooklyn bars and restaurants: Frexy's, The Broomfield House, Al House, Pioneer Bar and Brooklyn Social. A complete list is posted on Sixpoint's Web site. Sixpoint Craft Ales is

Say cheesecake: At Brooklyn East 2004, Shakor and Maria Watson (far right) of Shakor's Sweet Tooth get a hand from Borough President Marty Markowitz with their sweet potato cheesecake samples.

open to the public for brewery tours on Saturdays at 1 p.m., complete with a complimentary tour.

Soul Spot

302 Atlantic Ave. at Hoyt Street, (718) 596-9933, www.soulspot.org (MC, Visa). Entrees: \$11-\$15.

Barunary Turay and Chef Yaya Cessay opened this Caribbean-Inspired, Southern-style soul food spot in June 2003. Cessay, who says she spent five years at Soul Finks in Manhattan, has a long list of signature dishes, including meatloaf, barbecued beef ribs, fried chicken, lasagna and macaroni and cheese, collard greens and candied yams. The chicken and dumplings are a specialty. Cessay says the menu is the only one of its kind in the city. The restaurant is open daily for lunch and dinner.

Sugarcane

238 Flatbush Ave. at Bergen Street, (718) 232-3954 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa). Entrees: \$15-\$19.

Chef Phoebe Gumbs brings Caribbean cooking with a Trinidadian influence to the Park Slope-Slopeside Heights area and gets rave reviews for her seafood, especially the sugarcane shrimp skewers and curried shrimp. Owned by Chef Rodriguez, the restaurant's menu features many West Indian dishes, including a Jamaican jerk chicken.

Stir It Up

514 Atlantic Ave. at Third Street, (718) 645-3716 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa). Entrees: \$7-\$14.

For a casual, West Indian-flavored meal, Sonia Gordon's Stir It Up is a fun dining experience. To start, their \$9.95 spicy jerk infused with a force jerk marinade and house-made ginger beer, tea, lemonade, fruit punch or sorrel

(hibiscus tonic) to cool you down. For lunch or dinner, you can enjoy their brown stew fish, red snapper gently simmered in gravy with onions, peppers, scallions, pineapple and thyme; or you may prefer one of their veggie entrees, such as jerk "chicken" or "piper pepper steak" with tri-color peppers and onions. Gordon named the "amazing chicken" as the most popular choice. It's a vegan dish with sole, pineapple and vegetables. Desserts include house-made sweet potato cheesecake, carrot cake and a vegan sweet potato pie. The three-year-old restaurant seats about 30 guests in its dining room with wood floors and orange and green walls covered with Caribbean paintings. Catering for all occasions. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Sweet Melissa Patisserie

276 Court St. at Douglas Street, (718) 855-3410, www.sweetmelissapatisserie.com (AmEx, MC, Visa). Entrees: \$7-\$9.95.

Sweet Melissa Patisserie's menu includes a variety of "premier plat" dishes (soups and salads) and "plat principals" (entrees), as well as breakfast fare and fresh-baked pastries. To start, choose from soups such as a hearty lentil and roasted garlic in winter; or in summer, seared garden vegetable chowder, made with vegetable stock, garlic, green and yellow zucchini; or green apple salad with goat cheese, candied walnuts and cranberries and tender greens. Entrees include frittata of roasted squash with caramelized onion, Gruyere cheese and fresh tomato; or as well as the Welsh rarebit—grilled cheese on homemade brischoe with fresh tomato. Sweet Melissa also serves fresh-squeezed orange juice, espresso and a variety of loose-leaf teas. Drop by for daily "afternoon tea" from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sweet Melissa is open seven days a week. Open daily, weather permitting. Specialty cakes, including wedding cakes, can be made with 72-hour notice. Open daily.

On Sept. 13, Sweet Melissa opened a new, expansive location in Park Slope (175 Seventh Ave. at First Street, (718) 527-5511), where customers can enjoy a full patio in addition to the dining room.

anglaise sauce, according to Gumbs. Or you may give the sorrel cheesecake a try. Sugarcane hosts live steel pan jazz performances every other Saturday, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Open Tuesday through Sunday for dinner. Closed Mondays.

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Tavern on Dean

755 Dean St. at Underhill Avenue, (718) 638-3326 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa). Entrees: \$12-\$18.

Tavern on Dean is a cozy American tavern that opened in 2001. Chef Hugo Ance, who offers menu items like BBQ beef brisket and cold sandwiches—as well as some substantial fare, sampled the roasted half-chicken, sautéed cauliflower, white bean or grilled marinated pork steak with a merlot and shallot reduction. The kitchen is open until 3 a.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, and until 1 a.m. the rest of the week. Dean in the enclosed, child-proofed garden all year round. Open for dinner daily. Brunch is served weekends, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Farm on Adirondack

1108 Conely Rd. at Stratford Road, (718) 287-1701, www.thefarmonadirectory.com (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa). Entrees: \$11-\$16.

What is Adirondack, a major street in Cape Town, South Africa, doing in Ditmars Park? Just ask Gary Jones, who opened the restaurant this summer with co-owner Allison McDowell, and he will explain that it's an expression his family used when something was a long shot, as in "If that ever happens, I'll buy you a farm on Adirondack." Moreover, the name and the menu bring farm flavors back to now bustling Ditmars Park, which was once farmed with livestock. The menu, full of produce from local farmers, features seasonal items prepared by chef Tom Keamey, formerly of Manhattan's Jean Georges. Just try the cauliflower soup with roasted cauliflower and a "farm" salad. For an entree, Jones recommends a roasted chicken with potatoes and sprouts or "chicken in the hay." Anish chicken roasted over alfalfa hay with steak, a farmer's cheese and shell peas. The Farm on Adirondack also has a "farm" menu with surprising items like crispy tofu with wilted greens. "A lot of parents in the neighborhood are excited about the food," says Jones. For dessert, he recommends chocolate mousse, which has been an "eye-opener." Eat in the garden or on the porch, which is open daily for dinner.

Trattoria Mangia

119 Fifth Ave. at Sterling Place, (718) 511-8118 (AmEx, MC, Visa). Entrees: \$11-\$18.

Southwestern Italian cuisine, complete with a variety of pasta and homemade ravioli, is the pride of Trattoria Mangia in Park Slope, which opened in 2004. Sit inside the candlelit dining room, or outside on the corner cafe or enjoy a popular Italian orzo orzo, a pasta salad with goat cheese or mango. Pair them with Chef Luis Carpio's shrimp parmigiana or a meatloaf with chicken breast. Mangia also has a "farm" menu with surprising items like crispy tofu with wilted greens. "A lot of parents in the neighborhood are excited about the food," says Jones. For dessert, he recommends chocolate mousse, which has been an "eye-opener." Eat in the garden or on the porch, which is open daily for dinner.

Twin Marquis Inc.

328 Johnson Ave. at White Street, (718) 386-6868, www.twinmarquis.com.

Brothers Terry and Joseph Tang established this Williamsburg company in 1989. Twin Marquis manufactures "all fine Asian food products," says manager Lillian Chan, including pre-cooked dumplings, pre-cooked dumplings and spring rolls. The products are distributed all along the East Coast to both restaurants and retail stores. Twin Marquis manufactures kosher loaves, sautéed cauliflower, roasted herb salad, sampled the cauliflower soup with roasted cauliflower and a "farm" salad. For an entree, Jones recommends a roasted chicken with potatoes and sprouts or "chicken in the hay." Anish chicken roasted over alfalfa hay with steak, a farmer's cheese and shell peas. The Farm on Adirondack also has a "farm" menu with surprising items like crispy tofu with wilted greens. "A lot of parents in the neighborhood are excited about the food," says Jones. For dessert, he recommends chocolate mousse, which has been an "eye-opener." Eat in the garden or on the porch, which is open daily for dinner.

W-Vinocheque Restaurant

2812 Ocean Ave. at Avenue X, (718) 769-2222, www.wvinocheque.com (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa). Entrees: \$22-\$43.

Check out the supper-cub atmosphere at W-Vinocheque. The W (which stands for wine) has an impressive list featuring close to 600 international bottles, classic European-style decor and casual patio seating. (One of the patios is seasonal when the weather is nice.) For dessert, there's a three-color chocolate truffle cake with red velvet cake. W-Vinocheque serves two menu options: a carte and banquet-style (\$85-\$150 per person, for a minimum of 10 guests). W-Vinocheque is offered Thursday through Sunday at 8 p.m. Open daily for dinner.

Zola

72 Hof St. at Atlantic Avenue, (718) 596-5438 (Cash only). Entrees: \$4.75-\$6.95.

Owner Martha Johnson wants her customers to forget that they are at a restaurant when they come to Zola. "I want people to feel like coming home," says Johnson. Johnson says the menu is a mix of Italian, French and American. The menu includes the prosciutto di Parma with manchego cheese and beef pasta on Tuscan bread, or a meatloaf with cheddar and cheddar, caramelized onions, lettuce, tomatoes and horseradish aioli on sourdough bread. For a more Mediterranean flavor, try the "mezzes" platter, "our biggest seller," says Johnson. For dessert, there's a chocolate, pistachio, olive, feta cheese and stuffed grapes leaves served with pistachio or a light fruit yogurt parfait. Open Mondays through Saturdays for lunch and dinner 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Closed Sundays.

Brooklyn Papers Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

Sat, Sept 30

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

DUMBO WALK: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment takes a walk around DUMBO (Down Under the Manhattan Bridge Overpass), \$5, \$8 seniors and students. Noon to 2 p.m. Meet at street level at Avenue C, train at High Street on Coney Island. (718) 788-8600. Entrees: \$5-\$10.

CHILE PEPPER RESTAURANT

Chile Pepper Restaurant, 35 E. 85th Street, 10019. Entrees: \$15-\$20. Open daily for lunch and dinner. (718) 623-7200.

BIRD WATCHING CRUISE

Prospect Park Audubon Center hosts a cruise aboard the electric boat Independence. Tour the Lullwater, a scenic habitat for birds and fauna. \$10, \$6 kids. Binoculars provided. Noon to 12:40 p.m. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 623-7200.

LULLWATER EXPLORATION

Enjoy a boat tour detailing Prospect Park's aquatic habitats. Binoculars provided. \$10, \$6 kids. 11:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 623-7200.

FLATBUSH WALK: Brooklyn Historical Society takes a walk around Flatbush. Francis Monroe leads. \$15, \$10 members. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Meet at Church Avenue and East 18th Street near the Q train station. (718) 222-4111.

SKYLINE AT SUNSET

Weston Adventures hosts a scenerio hunt in Brooklyn Heights. Hunt includes stops at movie locations, famous views, homes and baseball landmarks. \$15. 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Advance ticket purchase necessary. (877) 9-GO-HUNT.

PERFORMANCE

BARGE MUSIC: presents a classical music program of works by Martinu, Liszt, Debussy, Ravel and Stravinsky. Weber, \$35, \$20 seniors, 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

DANCE: Joseph Hubs begins his 2005-2007 fall season with the third installation of the "Greatest Hits" Live Preserve Showcase, a performance series featuring dance works by Kristy Miller and Jay Slovic, a new monologue by Danielle Abrams, a new film by Frances Becker and Katherine Matheson Kaplan. More: \$15 adults, \$5 kids, 8 p.m. Gowanus Arts Building, 295 Douglass St. (718) 408-5554.

IMPACT THEATRE: presents Shakespeare's "Macbeth." \$15, \$12 students and seniors, 8 p.m. 1100 Underhill Ave. (212) 714-7102.

THE SACKETT GROUP: presents the comedy "Picasso at the Lapin Agile," written by Steve Martin. \$20, 8 p.m. Brooklyn Music School Playhouse, 126 St. Felix St. (718) 638-1047.

CHILDREN

ART MAKING: Brooklyn Museum hosts "Art Fairs." Explore the galleries, enjoy a family activity and create art. Appropriate for ages 4 to 8.5 adults, free for kids younger than age 12 and members. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

FAMILY CONNECTION: Plymouth Church presents "Theodore Stokers in Animal Rhythms," a program of spoken word, music and costume design. Tickets from \$10 to \$20. 11 a.m.

Sun, Oct 1

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

EARLY BIRD WALK: Audubon Center hosts a walk around Prospect Park's 512-acre park. \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids, 8 p.m. Gowanus Arts Building, 295 Douglass St. (718) 408-5554.

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DANCE: Joseph Hubs begins his 2005-2007 fall season with the third installation of the "Greatest Hits" Live Preserve Showcase, a performance series featuring dance works by Kristy Miller and Jay Slovic, a new monologue by Danielle Abrams, a new film by Frances Becker and Katherine Matheson Kaplan. More: \$15 adults, \$5 kids, 8 p.m. Gowanus Arts Building, 295 Douglass St. (718) 408-5554.

IMPACT THEATRE: presents Shakespeare's "Macbeth." \$15, \$12 students and seniors, 8 p.m. 1100 Underhill Ave. (212) 714-7102.

THE SACKETT GROUP: presents the comedy "Picasso at the Lapin Agile," written by Steve Martin. \$20, 8 p.m. Brooklyn Music School Playhouse, 126 St. Felix St. (718) 638-1047.

CHILDREN

ART MAKING: Brooklyn Museum hosts "Art Fairs." Explore the galleries, enjoy a family activity and create art. Appropriate for ages 4 to 8.5 adults, free for kids younger than age 12 and members. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

FAMILY CONNECTION: Plymouth Church presents "Theodore Stokers in Animal Rhythms," a program of spoken word, music and costume design. Tickets from \$10 to \$20. 11 a.m.

Sun, Oct 1

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

EARLY BIRD WALK: Audubon Center hosts a walk around Prospect Park's 512-acre park. \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids, 8 p.m. Gowanus

Continued from page 10...
this 1783 Dutch-American farmhouse that is usually closed to the public. 10 am and 11 am. Children's Corner, at the intersection of Flatbush Avenue and Empire Boulevard. Call for reservations: (718) 789-2822, ext. 10. Free.

GREEN BUILDINGS: Open house at Green Home NYC, a sub-chapter of the North East Sustainable Energy Association. Learn how aesthetics, quality and affordability work with environmentalism, health, comfort and well-being. 10 am to 4 pm. For Brooklyn walking tour locations, visit www.green-home-nyc.org. Free.

OYSTER FEST: Water Street Restaurant and Lounge hosts its third annual Guinness Oyster Music Festival. Activities include a procession from Manhattan's City Hall to Brooklyn's Water Street with the NYFO Pipes and Drums of the Emerald Society Marching Band, a Guinness Beer Garden, oysters, with six internationally-inspired sauces and 12 hours of live bluesgrass, country and rock music. Water Street Restaurant and Lounge, 66 Water St. (718) 625-9352.

BOTANIC GARDEN: hosts a class, "Great Gourd: Transform a Plant into Music." Learn an ancient craft and skill called "Beading" to create a gourd musical instrument. \$44. \$39 members. 2 pm to 5 pm. 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 625-7220.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "I aim to be cinema addict: Agnes B Selects." Today, "Lost Highway" (1996). \$10, \$7 children and seniors. 3 pm, 6 pm and 9 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 777-FILM. www.bam.org.

Sun, Oct 8

OUTDOORS AND TOURS
MIDWIVES RUN: American College of Nurse-Midwives, Region II, Chapter 1, hosts its fourth Annual Miles for Midwives 5K Race/Walk. \$15 adults, \$5 children. Registration at 8 am; run at 10 am. Adults \$12 advance/\$15 day of, children \$3/\$5. Bartel-Pritchard Square, 15th Street and Prospect Park West. Race applications can be downloaded at www.midwives.org (718) 625-5477.

STREET FESTIVAL: North Flatbush Avenue Business Improvement District hosts its 16th annual Street Festival. Over 500 vendors will participate in selling one-of-a-kind eclectic goods, antique jewelry, furnishings, art, fall fashion, and more. A retired Nets basketball team member will sign autographs, give away prizes, and shoot hoops with kids of all ages. 10 am to 6 pm. Along Flatbush Avenue, between Atlantic Avenue to Plaza West Street. (646) 222-0697, visit www.streetfestival.com. Free.

RACE AGAINST VIOLENCE: Eighth annual event to raise funds for Women Against Violence. Awards, gift bags, T-shirts (for first 150 participants) and raffle prizes. \$15. Race

begins at 10 am. 9201 Fourth Ave. (718) 748-1234.
LAST EXIT TO BROOKLYN: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment offers a tour of Red Hook. Explore this isolated neighborhood and visit sites inside the Waterfront Museum and Showboat Barge, an urban farm, a hidden graving dock and outdoor Central American food market. 11 am to 1:30 pm. Meet at street level at the 9th-10th Street train station. 21st Street. (718) 789-6863.

TWO BY TWO: Join 300 animal loving guests in a fundraising event to benefit Brooklyn Animal Foster Network. Cruise on the Atlantis, a 450-foot long private yacht. \$25 includes snacks and music. 1 pm (sharp) to 5 pm. Emmons Avenue at 21st Street. (718) 789-6863.

OPEN HOUSE NEW YORK: For a listing of all Brooklyn buildings open to the public, visit www.openhouse.org. See Sat., Oct. 7.

DANCE: Brooklyn Arts Council presents "Circle Round Brooklyn," featuring demos and workshops highlighting a range of circle dances, the oldest known dance form. 2 pm to 5 pm. Tobacco Warehouse in Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park. www.brooklynbridgepark.org. (718) 625-0880. Free.

BARGEMUSIC: presents a chamber music program of works by Schubert, Mozart, and Shostakovich. \$35, \$30 seniors. 4 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Oct. Fulton Street at the East River.

CONCERT SERIES: Music from Good Shepherd series presents violinist Elena Kores. Donations encouraged. 6 pm. Good Shepherd Church, Avenue 5 and Brown Street, Marine Park. (718) 998-2900.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: Les Freres Corbuser's "Hell House." 7:30 pm. See Sat., Oct. 7.

OTHER

BOTANIC GARDEN: hosts a class: "Create Your Own Herbarium." Learn how to create and preserve your own seed variety. Learn basic seed-saving skills and considerations, including timing of planting, preventing cross-pollination, selecting for improved varieties and planning for harvest. \$29. \$25 members. 10 am to 1 pm. 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 625-7220.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "I aim to be cinema addict: Agnes B Selects." Today, "Pink Flamingos" (1972). \$10, \$7 children and seniors. 2 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm and 9:15 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 777-FILM. www.bam.org.

CURATOR'S TALK: NURTUREart Gallery offers a talk on its group exhibit: "Another Place." Exhibit explores the environment from different perspectives. 4 pm. Hosted by Supreme Trading. 213 N. Eighth St. www.nurtureart.org (718) 782-7755.

ST. ANN CHURCH: Open House. NY. 10 am to 5 pm. See Sat., Oct. 7.

Nightlife...

Continued from page 11...
Williams Hill/Asap, Protopop, 9 pm, \$15. Oct. 8: Paul Michel, The Racists, The Secret of Solis, Teyt, 9 pm, \$10. Oct. 6: Brothers Past, 9 pm, \$12. Oct. 7: Langhorne Slim, Trainswreck Riders, The Goddamn Rottweilers, 9 pm, \$12.

Perch Cafe
345 Fifth Ave. at Fifth Street in Park Slope. (718) 788-2830.
Sundays and Thursdays Live Jazz, 8:30 pm, \$5 suggested donation; Sept. 30: Stan Hoanoff & Kurt Hernandez, 9 pm (two sets), \$5 suggested donation; Oct. 3: Angela Bingham, 10 pm (two sets), \$5 suggested donation; Oct. 8: Todd Newfield Group, 8:30 pm (two sets), \$5 suggested donation; Oct. 8: Vince Spinazzola/Jacob Sacks/Dave Ambrósio, 8:30 pm (two sets), \$5 suggested donation; Oct. 7: Steve Luman Quartet, 8:30 pm (two sets), \$5 suggested donation.

Pete's Candy Store

709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg. (718) 382-3770. www.petescandy.com.
Sundays: Open mic, 5 pm-8 pm, FREE. Sept. 30: The Rosemont Family, 8 pm, \$10. All-Jazz Wilson, 9 pm, Rachel Lee Walsh, 10 pm, Barlowe Madigan, 11 pm, FREE. Oct. 1: Paul Basile, 10:30 pm, FREE. Oct. 2: Spelling Bee, 7:30 pm, \$10. Hampton Project, 9:30 pm, Aaron Stout, 10:30 pm, FREE. Oct. 3: Bingo, 7 pm, Travis Cane, 9 pm, Frisay McKean, 10 pm, Jae-E, 11 pm, FREE. Oct. 4: Outcast, 7:30 pm, Yem, 10 pm, Britta Wolfson, 11 pm, FREE. Oct. 5: Matthew Brookshire (with Erik Kucin on violin), 9 pm, Oceanographic, 10 pm, The Theatre Five, 11 pm, FREE. Oct. 6: Aki Bunka, 8 pm, The Felice Brothers, 9 pm, Phred Simon, 11 pm, Amen Ra, 11 pm, FREE. Oct. 7: Murak, 8 pm, Wormwood (featuring Michael Gomez), 9 pm, Babak, 10 pm, The Betteires, 11 pm, FREE.

Ray's Comedy Club

9604 Third Ave. at 96th Street in Bay Ridge. (718) 744-4800.
Sept. 30: John Caponera and Carl Labov, 9 pm, \$15 and 2-drink minimum; Oct. 6: Angel Salazar, 9 pm, \$15 and 2-drink minimum.

Reign

40 Washington Ave. at Flushing Avenue in Clinton Hill. (718) 643-7344.
Saturdays: Sweet Saturdays with DJ Union's DJ Stutch 11 "The Flamin'" and GMC's own Country, 11 pm, \$18D.

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Two Boots Brooklyn

514 Second St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope. (718) 699-1253. www.two-bootsbrooklyn.com.
Sept. 30: Bill Macdonald & the Go-Op All Stars, 10 pm, FREE.
Union Hall
Downstairs at 702 Union St. at Fifth Street in Park Slope. (718) 632-4800. www.myspace.com/unionhall.
Sept. 30: Eff Powell, 8 pm, Great Lakes, 8 pm, \$10 in advance, \$12 day of the show; Oct. 1: The Andrew Thompson Show, Graham Smith of Rabener Girl World, Juliana Barwick, 8 pm, \$6. Oct. 6: Secret Society Club, 7 pm, FREE.

Union Pool

484 Union Ave. at Meeker Avenue, (718) 409-0346.
Oct. 7: Tava Jones & Neil, 8 pm, \$7. www.myspace.com/unionpool.

Vox Pop

1622 Coney Island Road at Stratford Road in Flatbush. (718) 940-2084. www.voxpopnyc.net.
Sundays: Open mic, 7:30 pm, FREE with 2-drink/snack minimum. Oct. 7: Songwriters Exchange hosted by Rebecca Prosky, 8 pm, FREE.

Zebulon Cafe Concert

258 Wythe Ave. at Metropolitan Avenue in Williamsburg. (718) 218-9594. www.zebuloncafeconcert.com.
Sept. 30: Mats and the Cornerstone, 10 pm, FREE.

Promenade 9-11 memorial sought



This computer-generated photo illustration shows how artist Anthony Caro's monument to 9-11 would appear on the Promenade in Brooklyn Heights.

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Papers

World-renowned sculptor Anthony Caro is considering creating a monument to the terror attacks of 9-11 on the Promenade in Brooklyn Heights.

"I am very interested," the British artist told The Brooklyn Papers this week in an email from his studio in the United Kingdom.

"I feel that [this is the right site for a sculpture that invites public participation. Its design would allow it to be entered, climbed into or on."

The monument, originally the brainchild of Brooklyn Heights artist Phillip Ashby, would sit at the foot of Pierpont Street, in front of the fence where a wood-framed photograph of the standing World Trade Center has hung since the day the towers fell.

Ashby contacted Caro with the hope of enticing him to create one of his trademark metal abstractions at the site, "Bitter Sky" (see the exclusive

something akin to his 1983 piece, "Bitter Sky" (see the exclusive Brooklyn Papers illustration, left).

"Like so many other people I stood right there on Promenade that day and saw the huge plumes of smoke and heard the noise," he said. "Metal seems like the most fitting material to translate what we saw."

Typically, Caro charges \$1 million for a public work, but this time the artist may be willing to take a pay cut.

"The largest item financially is likely to be the cost of making and erecting [the sculpture]," he said, adding that he would have to charge a fee to create the work.

The plan would require approval from the Parks Department before Ashby can even begin fundraising for the project. There is a chance that the city won't support it because there is already one official Brooklyn monument on the 69th Street pier in Bay Ridge and countless others at firehouses around the borough.

The planned "Freedom Tower" on the World Trade Center site will be visible from the Promenade.

"It's a tough one," said Otis Pearsall, a Brooklyn Heights preservationist and member of the city's Art Commission. "[Ashby] may not be aware of how many monuments there already are."

But Caro's interest in working in Brooklyn has generated some buzz in the art world.

"This could be a really wonderful way to bring a high-profile sculptor to Brooklyn and raise the standards for public monuments," said Chris Gullian, a Fort Greene sculptor.

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Lot in Red Hook is still a mystery



This alley between Visitation Place and Pioneer Street in Red Hook has become a haven for junked and parked cars — but the city won't clean it up for a simple reason: It's not a real street.

By Stuart Winchester

For The Brooklyn Papers

Along a potholed cul de sac in the heart of gentrifying Red Hook rots a string of vehicles with missing license plates and flat tires.

The dead-end strip of pavement — between Visitation Place and Pioneer Street, just off Coffey Park — looks like a city street. But the lane exists on no official maps, and lacks the multitude of signs denoting sidewalks throughout the city.

So, is it a street, or not?

Everyone has a different answer.

Leroy Branch, assistant district manager of Community Board 6, said the roadway is what is known as a "common driveway," meaning it's jointly controlled by the owners of all bordering buildings.

But the police department — which won't ticket cars on private property — sometimes leaves citations, said Rafael Justinao, an officer of Carroll Gardens Association, the non-profit group which owns the buildings lining the north side of the drive.

Meanwhile, the Sanitation Department treats the street differently than the cops.

"We don't tow cars from private property," said department spokesman Mike Lorenzo, insisting the roadway is not a real street.

Manuel Ortiz, executive director of Carroll Gardens Association, said he was frustrated by all the back-pushing.

"This place is in limbo," he said. "When you call the government to do something, they claim it's a private street. If so, speak to all the owners and close the damn thing!"

The Carroll Gardens Association could band together with the residents of Pioneer Street whose garages open onto the drive, and petition the city to transform it into a named street, shifting the onus of removing junked vehicles onto the Sanitation Department, said Reggie Caphart, from the Topographic Unit at the Brooklyn Borough President's Office.

Perhaps, but...

"We're not going to take it if it's all dumps," said Ron Moehly, at the city's Department of Transportation. By "dumps," Moehly meant that most common driveways don't have what it takes to be a real street: a minimum width of 50 feet to accommodate curbs and sidewalks.

In the absence of city involvement, someone is taking matters into his own hands: A message has been spray-painted onto a garage door on the south side of the street: "No Parking."

So far, it's working.

Lesbians moving out of 'Dyke Slope'

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Paper

As the Park Slope mommies, daddies and Bugaboos multiply, a fringe group that once dominated a piece of the neighborhood has taken itself back to the fringe.

The fringe of the Slope, that is.

No one knows it better than Cynthia Kern. When Kern, the producer of DYKE TV, moved to Brooklyn in the late 1990s, her home base was Seventh Avenue. She could walk to the Rising Cafe, a lesbian hangout, and enjoy Sunday morning at the lesbian bookshop next door.

But by 2001, Kern was based on Fifth Avenue, and both the lesbian cafe and the

bookshop had closed.

Now Kern and her girlfriend live in Windsor Terrace at the edge of Kensington, one of the F-line neighborhoods attracting a share of gay families.

I moved to Dyke Slope when it was strong," Kern said. "Then it became Puppy Slope. Now it's Baby Slope. We can't fit between all the strollers there."

The Slope has always been a place that attracted groups in droves — police officers, Irish immigrants, Hispanics and then, brownstone-craving Yuppies. Lesbians hit critical mass in the neighborhood in the 1980s and propelled Brooklyn's "gayborhood" into the alterna-tourist guidebooks by the '90s.

But Kern felt that "Dyke Slope" was truly dead several

months ago when she caught sight of a straight couple posing for a giggly photo under the "DYKE TV" sign on her office, the boyfriend pointing exaggeratedly at the reclaimed epithet.

"The word 'dyke' is a novelty now," she said. "The small-town feeling of safety is gone now and has been replaced by cute stores selling cute outfits."

By the end of this year, Kern expects to take down the last DYKE TV poster and move the last specifically (and politically) lesbian business off of Fifth Avenue.

Doreen Deleus is one Sloper who will miss the DYKE TV's ever-present rainbow flag. Deleus spent summers as a kid at her grandmother's house in Carroll Gardens. When the heat of the apartment got too much, she would stray to the Slope and watch what felt like a parade of women in love.

Six years ago, Deleus came out, and moved with a partner to a sunny apartment a stone's throw from Prospect Park.

"It's a bit disappointing for us," the Brooklyn Pride board member said. "I've finally publicly embraced my lesbianism and I wanted to be in a place that did also."

"When people hear I live in the Slope, they say 'You must



Ashley Bowers, a volunteer archivist, stands in a storage room in the Lesbian Archives in Park Slope. Like its collection, the lesbian community in the Slope is becoming history.

be in heaven," she added. "I say I got here a little too late."

The southward shift of the lesbian community is far from surprising.

One obvious reason is the skyrocketing cost of living in Park Slope. On average, men earn 21 percent more than women, an income discrepancy that becomes wider for women-only households. But finances are only part of the neighborhood's waning desirability among lesbians.

In the end, the real turnoff may be simply too many people who look like one another.

"I went to the Tea Lounge the other day and it totally freaked me out," said Gabrielle Belfiglio, a lesbian who once lived in Park Slope, but has since moved to Windsor Terrace. "Everyone looked like they were part of the same photo shoot, posing with a laptop or a baby."

"There used to be a sense of diversity that isn't there anymore," she added. "You can walk around Windsor Terrace and Kensington and see a Hassid next to a woman in hijab next to a Jamaican kid. You can be who you are in that mix of people."

Realtors who specialize in serving the lesbian community agree that the shift out of Park Slope speaks to an increased preference for diverse, multicultural communities.

"People aren't looking for ghettos, whether it be gay, black or white anymore," said David Rittenberg, a broker with Prudential Douglas Elliman. "They want a bigger mix of people."

Rittenberg said that many of his clients no longer even ask to see apartments in Park Slope, instead focusing the search in Kensington and Windsor Terrace.

The fall of "Dyke Slope" is particularly evident at Ginger's, Brooklyn's oldest existing gay bar. Decorated with an Irish flag, a rainbow flag, a scratched pool table and a TV that buzzes ESPN, Ginger's reeks of Bud Light and an unhappiness foreign among the trendy bars and lounges nearby.

It has become a neighborhood bar for a neighborhood that no longer really exists. "It's a classic lesbian dive, but I don't really go there," said Erin Keeble, a young lesbian who, like many of her friends, chose to settle south of the Slope, in Sunset Park.

But Keeble, a recent college grad, still has a connection to "Dyke Slope," albeit as its volunteer archivist. In a brownstone not far from Prospect Park, she attends to Herstory Archives, the world's largest repository of lesbian cultural artifacts. Three meticulous floors of shelved personal book and video collections, rare journals and

stashes of kitschy pink and purple memorabilia. The library is a testament to the community that once was.

"Now our job is to make sure that history isn't erased," she said.

Dog war

The Brooklyn Papers

The Health Department announced this week that it wants to revise the Health Code to allow the Parks Department to continue its off-leash hours.

These long-standing courtesy hours allow dog owners to let their pets run free in most city parks between 9 pm and 9 am.

But that policy came under fire this summer when a Queens community group sued the Parks Department. To render the community group's argument moot, the Board of Health is planning to re-write the Health Code.

Before the Nov. 1 public hearing, written comments can be emailed to resolution-comments@health.nyc.gov or snail-mailed to Rena Bryant, Secretary to the Board of Health, 125 Worth Street CN-31, New York, NY 10013. Let the barking begin.

— Dana Rubinstein



Ragamuffin time

The 40th annual Ragamuffin Parade will kick off at 1 pm on Saturday, Sept. 30, and will work its way along Third Avenue from 72nd to 92nd streets. In addition to thousands of screaming, costumed ragamuffins, this year's parade will feature a replica of a western Wells Fargo stagecoach. Here we see a squeaky-clean participant from last year's event — a testimony to the amazing things you can do with a cardboard box, some aluminum foil, and imagination.

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The breasts are the best

SMART mom

By Louise Crawford

sometimes asked to move to those locations for fear of offending other customers. Offending children? Since when is it offensive for a woman to nurse a baby?

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who is known to troll the Web site for story ideas (so don't be surprised if there's soon yet another article about those "crazy," "neurotic" Park Slope moms. Admittedly, PSP is a treasure trove for cynical magazine editors interested in the neurotic mommy zeitgeist.)

But Smartmom thinks the editor, Faye Penn, crossed the line when she started weighing in on the debate.

"Breasts are always sexy and sexual — and, yes, like our other sexual organs, multifunctional," she wrote. "Why do you have to negate their erotic nature in order to justify nursing? If someone thinks it's hot to see you breastfeed in public, what can you really do about that? Mace him? Lecture him? Throw a pamphlet at him?"

Given what she knows about her Park Slope neighbors, Smartmom's guess is that some moms will do all three. But she digresses. Penn continued:

"What healthy straight guy isn't turned on by the sight of a new pair of breasts — even if there is a baby attached to one of them?"

Don't be fooled (and don't

write Dumb Editor hate mail — it's not his fault). Most likely, editor Penn was probably just fanning the flames. After all, her comment set off a groundswell of more comments — and more quotes for that possible New York Magazine story that will probably portray those puritanical milk-maid in Park Slope who refuse to think of their breasts as sexual.

WELL, SOMETIMES a boob is just a boob, Faye. And sometimes it's the erotic epicenter of the world.

Just because some people on PSP are offended by the idea that someone would be turned on by a milky breast is no reason to generalize about Park Slope mothers.

And it doesn't mean magazines need to blow this up like a life-sized erotic doll. No more Any Sahn-style mommy rants turning Park Slope mothers into unpleasant stereotypes, please.

Let them nurse in peace. And let Park Slope mothers be the individuals they really are without judgment from New York Magazine's cliché-making editors.

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Vito's virtual friends

If MySpace were a high school, Rep. Vito Fossella (R-Bay Ridge) would be the captain of the football team. That's how wildly popular the Republican Congressman is on the social networking site.

Despite the fact that Fossella has called sites like MySpace "feeding grounds for sexual predators" and has urged parents to limit their children's access, the "Friends for Fossella" MySpace page — created by a campaign volunteer with the help of campaign staff — has a whopping 1,582 friends, some of them under 18.

That's impressive even by virtual reality standards. But if voters were to judge a man by the company he keeps, Vito Fossella would be in big trouble with many of his socially conservative constituents.

A number of Fossella's virtual friends are crude, rude, porno wannabes who make the most of the sexually charged, anything-goes atmosphere online.

In order to make friends on MySpace, one member must request another's "friendship." The recipient of the request has the opportunity to review the other's page and determine whether or not to reject the overture.

In the spirit of this online political era, The Brooklyn

Papers concocted a MySpace character called "Polly Amorous." "Polly" defines herself as a bisexual "swinger" and "atheist" who doesn't want to have kids. Her profile features a voluptuous, scantily clad cartoon character in bondage.

Would Fossella want to be friends with "Polly"? To test whether "Friends for Fossella" would "just say no" to the friendship request — and, frankly, to have a little fun — "Polly" invited the Fossella campaign to be her friend. She was accepted, no questions asked.






Fossella's staff was quick to point out that Fossella had no direct involvement with the MySpace page.

"The campaign helped a volunteer with establishing the site, but does not at this point operate officially nor control its content," said Matthew Mika, Fossella campaign manager.

"Unfortunately, there will always be a small percentage of people who misuse or abuse any technology. The fact that some would post material that could be considered inappropriate on this or any site demonstrates that point."

And so does the following sampling of Vito's "friends."

—Dana Rubinstein

Friend's screen name	Interests	Quote
 Senior S-salot (male, 31)	Heroin, cherub-like whores, masturbators, blood, David Lynch films	"I got the cancer from esmoking a lot. Now I s—s a lot."
 Hysterical Glamour (female, 26)	Dropped crotch jeans, graffiti, stuffed artichokes	"I look for girls with soft teeth/Girls who have dust on the floss in their medicine cabinet/t reduced rates for workers."
 MaH Sw4gg3r (male, age unknown)	Action Movies, R&B	"I love pretty women with fat asses."
 Satisfaction Guarantee (female, 19)	"The L Word," Ladies Night	"Every word of this you deserve ... I loved you SO MUCH it turned into HATE."
 J A Y (male, 19)	Conservatism, baseball, running	"The opposite sex has many fascinating body parts."

ISSUES...

Continued from page 5 under the Verrazano Bridge, only five percent are scanned," said Harrison. "There's a project in place by Homeland Security that says that 100 percent will be scanned in port by 2007. The problem is, once the ships are in port, it's too late."

HEALTH CARE

Fossella supports expanding health-care coverage through the private sector and cutting down on frivolous malpractice suits.

"I am a strong supporter of initiatives like Association Health Plans, which allow small business owners to pool together to purchase insurance at significantly reduced rates for workers," said Fossella. "In addition, I support Health Savings Accounts as a way for Americans to set aside money tax free for their health care coverage. I also supported a prescription drug plan under Medicare that guarantees coverage for every senior in America."

For his part, Harrison advocates universal health coverage.

"Twenty-seven cents on each health dollar goes to administrative health costs in America," said Harrison. "In Canada, it's less than two cents."

ABORTION

Fossella opposes it, but would not answer questions about circumstances when he might allow it. Harrison supports abortion rights, albeit tepidly.

"I fall somewhat in the middle," said Harrison. "I think a woman has the right to choose, but not to rely solely on abortion for birth control."

DEATH PENALTY

Fossella supports it. Harrison supports it in rare circumstances. "Prior to 9-11, I opposed it in all circumstances," said Harrison. "I think it may now have a place when you have crimes against humanity."

VERRAZANO TOLLS

Fossella wants to direct half of the toll money toward easing traffic on local roads that lead to the bridge.

Harrison has other ideas. "I want to see the toll on the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge eliminated for residents of the district," he said.

Opera seeks tiny actors

The Brooklyn Papers

Even actors with no lines sometimes exhibit some seriously diva-like behavior, as Dyker Heights' illustrious Regina Opera Company found out this week. Thanks to the frivolity of four child actors, the company is scrambling to find four replacements, ages 4-6, to act in its upcoming production of "Madame Butterfly." "We lost some of our actors," admitted an opera company spokeswoman. No speaking or singing abilities required. Kids must be able to look cute. For more information, email Reginald.papers@verizon.net or call (718) 252-3555.

—Rubinstein

Brooklyn Papers PARENT MUSIC

The breast is the best

SO, IT'S OKAY FOR mothers to spend billions of dollars a year at Toys "R" Us, but they're not allowed to breastfeed on the premises — it's offensive, too sexual and not appropriate for children.

No wonder hundreds of breastfeeding women and their supporters gathered outside of the Times Square Toys "R" Us for a rally last Thursday in support of Chelsi Meyerson, a breast-feeding mother who was allegedly harassed by store employees for breastfeeding her 7-month old son.

Smartmum wanted to go out and join them: she longed to tip off her shirt, pull down her bra, and nurse right in the middle of Times Square. "Lurch On, Lurch On," she'd scream, her fist held high.

Trouble is: she hasn't lactated since 1999, when the Oh So Feisty One decided she'd had enough at the age of 2. But Smartmum was there in spirit, recalling the relief and pleasure of giving her children the most nutritious food imaginable.

Smartmum still misses being a nursing mother, one of the most meaningful experiences a mother can have. Which isn't to say that it was easy, painless, or always enjoyable.

In the days after Teen Spirit's birth, Smartmum could not figure out for the life of her how to do it. Hepcat eventually took matters into his own hands.

"I was raised on a dairy farm," he said. "I know all about lactation."

Sure, she felt like one of the cows on Hepcat's family's farm, but it was a miraculous sensation and a wonderful way to bond with her baby and keep the crying to a minimum. It even helped him sleep, which meant more sleep for mama.

Of course, it also made Smartmum feel like she'd been transformed into a gigantic breast with an unending supply of milk and a child who wanted to do nothing but suck, suck, suck.

Early on, she tried to discreetly cover breast baby with a receiving blanket or a shawl, but after a while, all modesty went out the window and her breasts were exposed for all to see. Sometimes, she'd even walk toward Seventh Avenue breastfeeding, convinced that Teen Spirit's head was covering her bulging boob.

By all reports, Chelsi Meyerson was far more discreet during her nutritional gambit. She says that employees of the Toys "R" Us flagship store demanded she stop breastfeeding or move to the basement because they considered it inappropriate around children.

Toys "R" Us, like many retail stores, provide "nursing rooms" and mothers are sometimes asked to move to those locations for fear of offending other customers.

Offending other customers? Offending children? Since when is it offensive for a woman to nurse a baby?

According to the World Health Organization, "Breastfeeding is an unequalled way of providing ideal food for the healthy growth and development of infants; it is also an integral part of the reproductive process with important implications for the health of mothers."

It's not like it's some kind of pornographicideshow (and there are still a few such things in the vicinity of Toys "R" Us). For Buddha's sake, you're feeding a baby! What could be more natural than breasts?

BREASTS ARE THE original multi-taskers. Their primary function is to nurture the young. But they are also a source of eroticism for women and men in some, but not all, cultures. Sure, there were times when Smartmum was breastfeeding in public when men (and women) looked at her like they were being turned on. If you're turned on by breasts, so be it. It's only human. You can't expect people to decide their sexual desires. But they can act appropriately in public and differentiate between a sexual act and a maternal one (even if Freud thinks they're one and the same).

Sigmund the Great suggest-

SMART mom

By Louise Crawford

ed that a child's first erotic object is his mother's breast. So it's no wonder that the breast persists as an area of arousal. (He also said the breast is a substitute for a penis, but that's a topic for another column.)

Still, this does not mean that nursing mothers and children should require parental guidance like an R-rated movie. Women should be able to nurse in full view of the public because there is no better way to normalize breastfeeding and teach children and others about its health and emotional benefits.

You can even quote the World Health Organization. The reverberations of the Toys "R" Us incident echoed through Brooklyn, of course, so naturally there were legions of posts on Park Slope Parents (PSP). As usual, a lot of opinions were bandied about.

One even came from a New York Magazine editor who is known to troll the Web site for story ideas (so don't be surprised if there's soon yet another article about those "crazy," "neurotic" Park Slope moms. Admittedly, PSP is a treasure trove for cynical magazine editors interested in the neurotic mommy zeitgeist.)

But Smartmum thinks the editor, Faye Penn, crossed the line when she started weighing in on the debate.

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Given what she knows about her Park Slope neighbors, Smartmum's guess is that some moms will do all three. But she digresses. Penn continued:

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OUR OPINION

Our invitation to Ratner

WE RAN INTO FOREST CITY RATNER Vice President Bruce Bender in front of Park Slope's PS 321 the other day. We've known Bender for a long time and we like talking with him — even though he goes to town on us like we were a Peter Luger porthouse.

Bender's persistent claim is that this paper is biased against his company's Atlantic Yards development. He says our reporters write "hit pieces" that distort the truth about the project. He argues that we don't print "all the good things" FCR is doing in Brooklyn (not that he had a list of such things handy).

Bender would no doubt prefer us to be like the New York Times, which has not only teamed up with Bruce Ratner to build a new headquarters in Times Square, but takes as gospel every press release from its development partner. For whatever reason, the Times has chosen not to cover Brooklyn's largest development ever with its usual critical eye.

In our line of work, we love to hear criticisms like Bender's. We are not infallible — which is why we have, in fact, reached out to Bender and his boss Bruce Ratner repeatedly with fair questions about the project to ensure that all the information in our paper is accurate, up-to-date and interesting to readers who may not be fully aware of the details of the company's 16-tower residential, hotel, office space and basketball arena project.

Bender claims we don't care about accuracy, but our report has always been that we are simply covering the known impacts of the Atlantic Yards project — impacts that state officials readily acknowledged in their environmental impact statement.

Bender and his spokespeople have done little to assist our understanding of that document — not even offering us their spin so that more of our coverage might reflect the company's thinking. As it

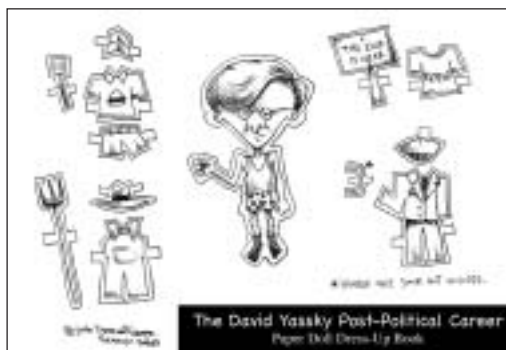
is, we feel we do a good job pointing out what project supporters see as its benefits.

So that's why, as we were chatting with Bruce Bender, we reiterated our long-standing invitation: We would like to interview Bruce Ratner, one on one, and print the full, unedited transcript. The reader could then judge for himself if our questions are fair and balanced. And he'll get to hear Bruce Ratner's vision — not edited or taken out of context. We'll even upload the entire audio to our Web site so no one could accuse us of malfeasance.

But Bender said no. That's a pity. We want our readers to hear the full depth of FCR's "side" of the story.

Hence the invitation: A one-hour, mano-a-mano interview which would be printed — as we said, unedited — in an upcoming issue of The Brooklyn Papers and Web cast at www.brooklynpapers.com. So how about it Bruce and Bruce?

ALL DRAWN OUT



LETTERS

Atlantic Yards speaks to larger issues

Opting out of home delivery

Since the beginning of the year, we've been home delivering Papers throughout Brownstone Brooklyn. Our unique system limits deliveries to two Papers per building (eliminating the kind of clutter caused by circular and menu delivery services). We hope everyone appreciates our free home delivery, but realize there are exceptions to every rule.

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All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

To the editor,

I enjoyed your editorial on secrecy at the Empire State Development Corporation ("Pataki's wall of silence," Sept. 23).

Critics of Atlantic Yards can make the case of lack of transparency surrounding the proposal until they're blue in the face, but you illustrate a very important point, that secrecy at the ESDC is more than a pattern, it's a policy.

Thanks for jump-starting the conversation here in Brooklyn. It's an important one because so much of our borough is facing big state-sponsored changes with little input and very few answers.

Lami Rolley, Park Slope

To the editor,

Your article, "New deal lets Nets escape to Queens" (Sept. 23), should be no surprise to anyone. The Yankees (Bronx), Mets (Queens) and Nets (Brooklyn or Queens) all have something in common.

They all remind me of why taxpayers should just say no to using public funds for any new major sports stadiums. In ancient Rome, government attempted to curry favor with the masses by offering free bread and circuses. Today, we have sports park.

How sad that taxpayers are continually asked to pay for new stadiums. Public dollars are being used as corporate welfare to subsidize a private-sector business. The only real beneficiaries are team owners and their multi-million-dollar players.

And when you consider the cam-

paign contributions made by team owners, their affiliated employees, consultants and lobbyists, there is clearly a direct relationship between developers and the elected officials.

Given the current municipal projected deficits of several billion dollars in upcoming fiscal year, professional sports is not an essential service and shouldn't qualify for government subsidy.

Larry Penner, Great Neck, New York

To the editor,

Atlantic Yards is not about jobs! Many projects will create jobs. If Forest City Ratner proposed to build two nuclear reactors and a plutonium processing plant there, the four neighborhoods would unanimously reject it as inappropriate and misguided — even though it would produce jobs!

This is the calculus that must be used here: Is a mega-development of 16 skyscrapers, which will be under construction for 10 or more years, and which will bring 18,000 more people to the subway platforms and buses, as well as vehicles to the already congested streets, worsening even more the already unsafe air quality — is this development a good idea?

These skyscrapers will be with us for the next 100 years — long after the construction jobs have moved on. The decision should not be about jobs. So let's demand our politicians look for something that will work for the people who live here.

Michael H. McCombs, Park Slope

Dirty job

To the editor,

Recently, my friend's 91-year-old mother got a \$25 ticket from the Sanitation Department for putting a cottage cheese container in her recyclables bag. The zealous inspector had gone up and down her block going through everyone's garbage to ferret out illegal behavior.

But evidently massive littering is just junky-dory. My own neighborhood, Dumas Park West, is a prime dumping ground for the Newsday Market. Once or twice a week, people with shopping carts throw these circulars on the sidewalks in front of every house. Within hours, these eight-to-10-page flyers are strewn all over the well-kept lawns, the sidewalks and the streets of the neighborhood.

I've called 311 several times to complain, but each person I speak to says that there's nothing to be done about this mass littering because Sanitation Department regulations permit the distribution of advertising circulars.

When I tried to make the distinction between circular distribution and littering, the response was to repeat the Sanitation Department regulation. In exasperation, I called the Sanitation Department — but was told to call 311.

This reminded me of Freddie Prince's line in "Chico and the Man": "Is not my job."

Why are we paying these people at

311 and Sanitation if combating litter is not their job?

Steve Slavin, Dumas Park

Walkers unite!

To the editor,

I am in complete sympathy with the bike riders in their dispute with the automobile ("Blood on the street," Sept. 16). Certainly any driver who double-parks in a bike lane should be ticketed at double the rate for forcing a bike rider to go out into the active traffic lane and thereby endangering him or herself, although a prudent bicyclist might take the time to look before changing lanes. Many drivers have little respect for the bicycle rider.

That said, I believe it is also time for the bike riders to respect the pedestrian. Bikers on sidewalks coming at you at a decent clip are unnerving enough, but when they go past you from behind, it can really scare a person. What would happen if the pedestrian suddenly turned to enter a house or store just as the cyclist is passing?

And bikers often ride against traffic on a one-way street. The pedestrian may well look in the direction of oncoming traffic only to be struck from the other direction.

New York is a crowded city with all types of moving objects vying for space. Cyclists are often in the right in their complaints. But, it is time that the pedestrian has his say about bikers.

Richard Nittinger, Park Slope



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PUBLISHER Celia Weinroth (ext 104)

EDITOR Gersh Kuntzman (ext 119)

SENIOR EDITOR/PRODUCTION MANAGER Vince DiMiceli (ext 125)

GO BROOKLYN/BROOKLYN BRIDE EDITOR Lisa J. Curtis (ext 131)

ART DIRECTOR Leah Mitch (ext 127)

OFFICE MANAGER Chara Brown (ext 101)

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Yassky axes archaic laws

The Brooklyn Papers

It's his first major act since losing the race for Congress, City Councilman David Yassky (D-Park Slope) is taking aim at so-called "ludicrous" laws, which prohibit such "crimes" as washing laundry after midnight or hosing the curb off sidewalks in the morning.

According to Yassky, whose bill was passed on Wednesday, such arcane laws are rarely enforced, but they still manage to have a chilling effect on small businesses.

"When you have things on the books that

are not enforced, it inhibits people," said Yassky. "It's important that the written code keep pace with the times."

Some of the rickety laws date back to the 1930s, like the one that forbids people from selling second-hand goods after dark.

Other doozies include a rule that forbids food vendors from displaying non-perishable products on their carts.

Needless to say, not one of these so-called ludicrous laws is of more modern vintage.

"None of the ones I've authored qualify," said Yassky. "I think they're all really great... That was a joke."

—Dana Rubinstein

Dyker Hts opera seeks tiny actors

The Brooklyn Papers

Even actors with no lines sometimes exhibit some seriously diva-like behavior, as Dyker Heights' illustrious Regina Opera Company found out this week.

Thanks to the frivolity of four child actors, the company is scrambling to find four replacements, ages 4-6, to act in its upcoming

production of "Madame Butterfly."

"We lost some of our actors," admitted an opera company spokeswoman. "You know how it is; some kids flip out."

No speaking or singing abilities required. Kids must be able to look cute.

For more information, email ReginaOpera@yahoo.com or call (718) 232-3555.

—Rubinstein

POLICE BLOTTER...

Continued from page 3

stealing the 26-inch gold chain from his neck, plus a gold jewelry piece, and took \$50 from his pockets.

The victim described one of the two muggers as a white Hispanic man, 6-foot-1, and dressed in a black jacket.

Armed kids

A pair of gun-toting teenage thieves riding one bicycle robbed a Pratt Institute student in broad daylight on Sept. 23, police said. The 24-year-old victim was walking home along Willoughby Avenue, near Myrtle Avenue, shortly before 2 p.m. when the youngsters peddled up on a BMX bike. The boy standing on the back wheel pulled a black handgun, pointed at her and insisted, "Give me your stuff."

Before she could respond, the young thug snatched her handgun. The pair pedaled off with her purse, which contained a cellphone, keys, credit cards, her Social Security card, U.S. passport and New York State unemployment identification.

Police are looking for two black teens, both around age 13, roughly 5-foot-4 and 100 pounds. Both young hoods dressed in black sweat jackets and black jeans.

Pushed around

Two women were attacked from behind, and a thief ran off with one of their purses in the afternoon of Sept. 17.

The 24- and 25-year-old women were shoved to the pavement as they walked to the corner of Bond and Wyckoff

streets at 4:45 p.m. The cowardly thug had only enough time to snatch one woman's purse and a bloody the other woman's knee.

The bag contained \$10, a pink Motorola cellphone worth \$150, and several key pieces of identification including the woman's driver's license, her Bulgarian passport and her Social Security card.

Wrong number

A man lost a disagreement on Sept. 18 when the woman involved in the fight taught him how to dial a cellphone with his face.

The 56-year-old woman and 51-year-old man were arguing around noon that day in an apartment on Atlantic Avenue near Third Avenue when the altercation got out of hand. The woman gave a new meaning to the term "mobile phone" by hurling it at the man, striking him square in the cheek.

When police showed up, the man complained of pain and swelling, but refused medical treatment.

The woman was arrested for reaching out and touching someone a little too roughly.

Tug team

It sounds like these robbers watch too much professional wrestling.

A pair of thugs tag-teamed a 19-year-old man on Sept. 18 and stole his cellphone as the teen was walking on Pacific Street.

As the victim approached the corner of Fourth Avenue, the dastardly duo pushed him to the ground and proceeded to beat him, punch him and kick him.

One of the men also cut his arm with a sharp instrument causing substantial pain.

The victim's phone was snatched from its holster and the pair fled the scene. The man

sustained multiple cuts and bruises and his injuries were later treated.

Morning mug

A chain snatcher surprised a Baltic Street resident as she entered her basement on Sept. 18, police said.

The 39-year-old victim was heading to the cellar around 9

am to retrieve a bag she needed for work when the stranger surprised her from behind. "Give me your f---ing chain," he demanded, yanking the \$300 necklace from her body before she could respond.

The thief then pushed her to the ground, leaving the victim with scratches on her neck, bruises on her arms and scrapes

on her back and knees. Police are looking for a black man around age 40, 5-foot-8, 160 pounds, with short hair, a gap tooth and dressed in a black jacket and blue jeans.

Nabbed

Police arrested a 54-year-old thug who beat a 61-year-old fellow during a surprise Hicks Street attack on Sept. 14.

The victim was walking home around 10 p.m. when the stranger approached near Lorraine Street. For reasons that weren't clear to cops, the assailant snatched the victim in the face with his fist, knocking him to the ground where he suffered cuts, scrapes and bruises.

The attack attracted attention and, eventually, the police. Officers arrested the younger man on assault charges. The gravity of the suspect is wanted on several other charges, police said.

D'Town BID-ing for the future

The Brooklyn Papers

A coalition of local property owners wants to clean up a gritty corner of Downtown Brooklyn through the formation of a new business improvement district.

If the proposed Court-Livingston-Schermerhorn BID is formed, property owners within its boundaries — Court Street to Flatbush Avenue be-

tween Atlantic Avenue and Livingston Street — would pay an extra tax that would go straight to a fund designated for maintenance and security of the area.

City taxes already cover such things — but many business leaders form BIDs to supplement city services. There are dozens of such districts throughout the city.

—Ariella Cohen

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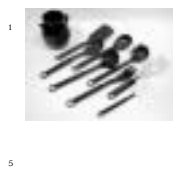
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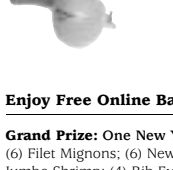
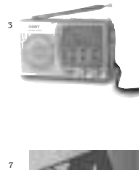
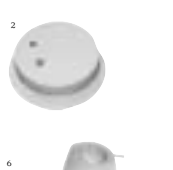
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COFFEE...

Continued from page 1

lege town" metaphor, Sweet Melissa is more like the faculty club or the place your parents took you for lunch during those awkward college visits. You feel a bit uncomfortable if you go there in a sweatshirt after a run (by comparison, you'd be overdressed in such an outfit at the Tea Lounge).

The two joints have different clienteles, certainly. But with the Tea Lounge getting increasing competition from other java joints in Park Slope and with Sweet Melissa being squeezed by upscale bakeries on Court and Smith streets, it's only logical that both places would covet each other's grounds.

It's unclear, of course, which coffee shop/bakery/hangout will

win the hearts and minds of each neighborhood, but the cross-pollination is the talk of the town.

"Sweet Melissa is great, but you can't hang out there because it's so quiet," said Zam Bates, a Carroll Gardens resident who is already a big fan of the new Tea Lounge. "And, let's face it, the crowd is a bit stuffier and fussy-sounding."

Stuffy fortysomethings fired back.

"I can't go to the Tea Lounge," said one middle-aged Park Sloper. "There's something about those couches that..." Her voice trailed off and she scratched herself as if warding off bed bugs.

And younger non-breeders sometimes complain about all



A Starbucks breakfast.

the babies at the Tea Lounge. Screaming kids are a rarity at Sweet Melissa.

"Basically, coffee shops and bakeries in Brooklyn have to make a choice of what they want to be," said Lauren Klein of Carroll Gardens, a grad stu-

And in a flanking move...

The Brooklyn Papers

I want to get out, but they keep pulling me back in.

Just when I thought it was safe to never go back to Starbucks — what with Tea Lounges and Sweet Melissas popping up all over — the company called me to tell me about its new line of warm, toasted sandwiches.

Your far-from-humble co-

lumnist got the first taste.

I actually like Starbucks coffee, as well as the company's ethics, but I wouldn't wish their rubberized bagels on an Iowa tourist.

The good news is that all four egg sandwiches are quite good, with the peppered bacon and cheddar version a standout.

The better news is that they're priced at \$2.95.

And the best news is that the new, high-tech ovens that Starbucks has installed in all 14,681,231 locations can also be used to toast those lame bagels, according to Jennifer Miles, the company's warming implementation manager.

Yes, Starbucks has a warming implementation manager. Can the Tea Lounge say that?

—Kuntzman

dent who was tapping away at her laptop at the Cobble Hill Tea Lounge the other day.

"Do they want to be like this place, which basically invites you to buy a bagel and coffee and sit here all day, or do you want to be like Sweet Melissa,

which wants to serve you lunch and have you go on your way?" There are strong passions on both sides (and some really great passion fruit cheesecake at Sweet Melissa). But sometimes, deciding where one gets his coffee and writes the Great

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